

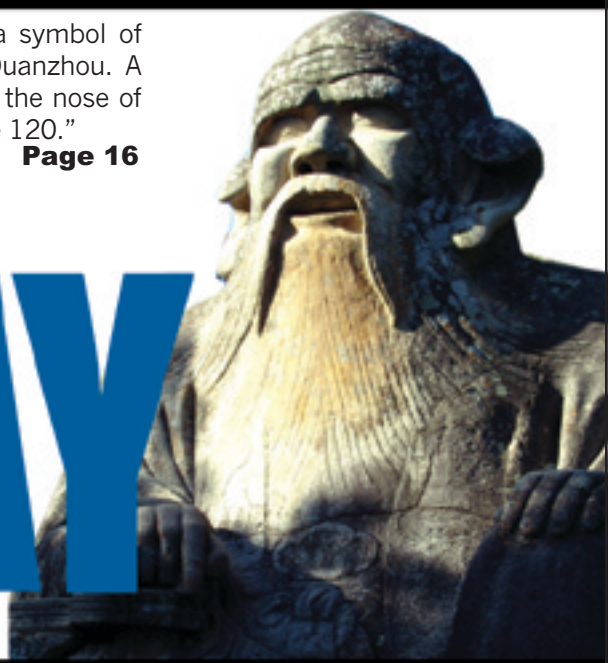
In the years since the fall of the Qing Dynasty, the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest has survived two poorly executed renovations. **Page 10**



South Korean hair stylists are mushrooming around the city, and not only to keep up with the teens. **Page 14**



The statue of Lao Zi is a symbol of health and longevity in Quanzhou. A local saying goes, "Touch the nose of the stone saint and live be 120." **Page 16**



# BEIJING TODAY

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**P**alestinian leader Yasser Arafat died early on Thursday at a French military hospital outside Paris, Palestinian presidential secretary Tayeb Abdelrahim announced at Arafat's Muqataa headquarters.

According to a spokesman at the hospital where Arafat had been undergoing medical treatment, the Palestinian leader died in intensive care at 3:30 am. (10:30 Beijing time).

"Mr. Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, has died at Percy military hospital at Clamart on November 11 at 3:30 am," said Christian Estripeau, spokesman for the health department of the French Defense Ministry.

Estripeau told reporters Arafat's body would be leaving the hospital and that no details would be revealed regarding the cause of death.

Former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei, Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath and Parliament Speaker Rawhi Fattuh visited Arafat in the French military hospital on Monday.

The body of Arafat will be flown to Cairo, capital of Egypt, for a funeral to be held there today. A senior Palestinian delegation arrived in Cairo Wednesday to make arrangements for the funeral.

After the memorial service, Arafat's body is to be flown to Muqataa in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The Israeli government Wednesday gave the green light for Arafat's burial in Ramallah.

Under the law of Palestine, Fattuh will serve as caretaker leader of the Palestinian Authority until a new president is elected.

The top body of the Palestine Liberation Organization will meet at 8 am (GMT) to discuss arrangements for a smooth transition of power following Arafat's death, said a senior Palestinian official.

Arafat, 75, had suffered from a variety of digestive tract ailments since he had been confined to his Ramallah headquarters by the Israeli army. He was transferred to the French military hospital on October 29.

(Xinhua)

## Arafat Dies, Funeral to be Held in Cairo



XINHUA/AFP Photo

## Israel FM Hopes for Moderate Palestinian Leadership

By Yu Shanshan

Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Silvan Shalom said in Beijing Monday afternoon that Israel hoped the Palestinian authority would acquire a more moderate leadership should the ailing Yasser Arafat die.

"Israel hopes that the Palestinian people will be led by a responsible leadership who will fight terror and make it possible to return to dialogue and negotiations for peace," Shalom said.

"We would like to see a new moderate leadership that will be willing to

move toward peace and understanding with Israel."

At a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing in Beijing, Shalom reaffirmed Israel's commitment to the "road map" towards a Middle East peace settlement. But he blasted the Palestinian authorities for what he called their failure to curb terrorism.

"I reaffirmed to my colleague Israel's commitment to the road map and to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," Shalom told reporters.

The road map is a US-backed peace plan that envisions a Palestinian state

on lands evacuated by Israel.

Both sides have endorsed the road map, but neither side has carried out its first steps. Israel was to stop settlement construction and Palestinians were to dismantle violent groups attacking Israelis.

Shalom said the installation of a possible new Palestinian leadership wouldn't affect Israel's "unilateral disengagement" from Palestinian-ruled Gaza.

Shalom said he has seen in the middle-east conflict, China is willing to play a more active role than it played in the past.

## Words Take Place of Bullets

China's first group of trained hostage negotiators start talking

By Chu Meng

**A** pregnant woman was being held in a supermarket by a young man pressing a knife to her neck. Within minutes there were more than 200 police officers and dozens of police vehicles on the scene.

A petite young woman emerged from behind the police lines and walked toward the man. "Hi, I'm here to help you. I have no bad intentions. I know you're doing this out of a feeling of helplessness. Would you please calm down?" She said while slowly approaching.

The hostage taker became agitated and shouted his demands, "3 million yuan and a getaway car. Quick or I will kill her." The negotiator nodded, "Take it easy. We'll meet your needs. I know how much anguish you're in. But think about this woman's unborn baby, who is totally innocent."

"Why should I care about them? Give me the money and the car! Quick!" But the young man was wavering. The negotiator used hand gestures to calm him down. "Look at the pregnant lady. Hasn't she suffered enough? You don't mind her sitting down, do you?"

This scene is not from a new action movie, or from the pages of newspaper. It was a rehearsal for a hostage negotiation staged by China's first batch of graduates from the Hostage Negotiation and Violent Crime Intervention Ad-

vanced Course held by Beijing Police Academy early this month.

**Need for new skills**

China is seeing a surge in hostage crises. Guangzhou's *Southern Metropolitan Daily* reported Monday that there had been more than 20 such cases reported in the past year. In the past two months, there have been reports about armed kidnappings on an almost weekly basis.

More than 50 top police officers were recruited from all over the country to undergo special training in negotiation techniques this summer. After extensive testing, 17 were selected. Now this group are China's first professional hostage negotiators.

"Through three months of lectures, case analyses, demonstrations and run-throughs, our trainees have mastered primary negotiating techniques," said Professor Gao Feng of Beijing Police Academy, who was the first Chinese expert to study the handling of such negotiations.

Gao was quoted in *Sanlian Life Weekly* as saying, "The highest principle for negotiation is to ensure the life and safety of the hostage. In a society governed by law and human rights, even the life of the criminal suspect should not be taken away lightly. Shooting the kidnapper should be the last resort."

Traditionally, killing the kidnapper, whatever the cost, was considered the ultimate victory. But the only international stan-



Beijing police conduct a hostage negotiation exercise near the Forbidden City in June this year.

Photo by Photocomed

dard for evaluating such crisis intervention is whether the life of the hostage is saved when the dust settles, Gao said.

Around the same time the story of the negotiator training program was making the rounds of the nation's media, a hostage-taking case occurred in Changchun, capital of north-east China's Jilin Province on July 7.

On that morning, Chen Haran, a 23-year-old peasant, forced his way into a red Volkswagen Bora. The driver was a young mother named Guo, who had just dropped off her daughter at a kindergarten. Brandishing a knife, Chen demanded a ransom of 100,000 yuan. Before he could drive off from the crowded street, the car was surrounded by police and spectators. After a three-hour stale-

mate, police fired four shots, killing Chen. But Guo had been stabbed seven times. She died on the way to the hospital.

**Qualities of a negotiator**

"We tried our best to meet the demands of the kidnapper, even offering to exchange a policeman for the hostage. We would have kept on talking if he had not harmed the hostage," said Tang Qinghua, deputy director of Changchun Public Security Bureau.

"Why did negotiation fail? Tang and his colleagues might be the best qualified in that city to have conducted the negotiation, but they lack tactical negotiation skills," said Gao Feng, "A well-trained negotiator has a success rate of 80 percent. But the current success rate in China is less than 50 percent, and even that is

achieved mostly by chance."

Hao Hongkui, associate professor at the China People's Public Security University in Beijing explained to *Beijing Today*, "According to international norms, a negotiating team usually consists of three people: a team leader who co-ordinates everything, a chief negotiator who does all the talking, and an assistant who records all the details of the scene and can take over if the chief negotiator has to be replaced."

The prerequisites for a good negotiator, according to Gao Feng, include a wealth of legal knowledge and a storehouse of miscellaneous information. He or she must be extremely sharp, observant and expressive, have quick reflexes and rely mostly on gut feelings. On top of that, he or she must be able to act well enough to express their emotions both verbally and physically.

Wang Jinling from Shijingshan Police Bureau, one of the 17 trainees in the program, told *Beijing Today* Wednesday "I learnt to modulate my voice and control the pace of conversation during the practice sessions. And we also had experts from eight other provinces who taught us different dialects. It could turn out to be very effective for a negotiator to talk to an offender in his native dialect."

"I really got a lot out of the course. Generally speaking, the immediate priority of a negotiator is to dissipate tension. The kidnapper tends to be in an extremely unstable, emotional state and may abruptly resort to violence. But rarely is his ultimate intention to harm the hostage. That gives negotiators room to manipulate the situation and put the kidnapper at ease.

**Value of life**

The shift of emphasis, from killing the kidnapper to saving the hostage, can only happen at a time when there is a public awakening to the value of human rights. But it also puts the police in a riskier position.

Gao Feng said, "our methods deviate from the practice in western countries. In the west, negotiations are usually conducted by telephone or at a safe distance. But close-range negotiations are closer to traditional Chinese conventions and are much more effective in breaking down the hostage taker's mental barriers." He added, "Actually nobody is advocating a total ban on using lethal force against kidnappers. It is just that it should be used with more caution. The offender may have broken the law, but he should be brought to justice in a court of law."

The risk to the negotiator is fairly low, with the worldwide figure for attacks on negotiators at 3.6 percent. Yet the dynamics at a hostage scene can change so quickly that a slight miscalculation may lead to the loss of the hostage or the negotiator's life.

Next year the 17 graduates will go through another round of training and some will be sent overseas to hone their skills. In addition, China People's Public Security University has invited experts from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation for exchanges and lectures.

"We are only just starting, and have a lot to learn. We need more cases for analysis. We'll take it one step at a time," said Gao.

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Visitors examine a model of "new Beijing" at the Beijing Municipal Planning Exhibition Hall.

Photo by Photocom

# Long Term Plan to Improve Living Standards in Capital

By Annie Wei

The Beijing City General Plan for 2004 to 2020 has been on display this week at the Beijing Municipal Planning Exhibition Hall. A spokesman from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning was quoted in *Beijing News* Monday as saying that the plan gives prominence to some bottleneck issues restricting city development, such as traffic and basic facilities planning, bio-environmental protection, and historical sights

preservation. It also discusses the coordinated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei. The plan is now awaiting State Council approval, after being reviewed by the Beijing Municipal Committee, Beijing Municipal Government and the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, the spokesman said. The 16 year plan sets the goal of building Beijing into one of the world's top metropolises, with continuous development in economy,

society and environment. Included in the plan are population and automobile targets, which require the city to keep the population within 18 million by 2020, with a 1.4 percent annual growth rate, and 5 million privately owned automobiles. To relieve pressure on the central area, the plan includes 11 satellite towns on the city's outskirts, including Tongzhou, Shunyi and Yizhuang, as key residential areas and sites for new industries. Regarding the environment, the

city will improve the wastewater drainage system and build a water-recycling system, increasing the processing rate to over 90 percent. Meanwhile, the city's tree coverage will reach 55 percent and forest coverage 38 percent, with total green areas reaching 44 to 48 percent by 2020. The plan also calls for greater promotion of the culture and tourism industries in the original city area, and improve safety systems, such as fire and emergency services.

## RMB Convertibility Partly Realized under Capital Account

By Sun Yongjian

RMB convertibility has been partially realized under capital account, Wei Benhua, vice president of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said at a forum in Beijing Monday, Xinhua reported. Wei said that convertibility has been realized in half of the 43 capital account categories classified by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), meaning that the transaction will be realized without restriction.

"It is a long-term goal of the system reform of China's Exchange Administration to realize complete RMB convertibility under capital account following the realization of complete convertibility under current account from 1996," Wei was quoted in the report as saying. "Realizing convertibility under capital account is an issue every country has to face when the economy has developed to a certain extent. Especially when convertibil-

ity has been realized under current account and the efficiency of restriction of capital liquidity has been reduced," Wei said. As for the process of the complete opening of RMB capital account, Wei said, the long-term capital liquidity should be opened first, and then the short-term capital liquidity. Restrictions on financial institutions should be lifted first, and then restrictions on non-financial institutions and individuals.

## Financial Leasing Trade Expanded

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Ministry of Commerce and State Administration of Taxation have jointly issued a circular on financial leasing trade, under which eighty pilot enterprises in forty areas are approved to enter the financial leasing business, *China Business Post* reported Saturday. "Domestic-funded leasing enterprises can finally enjoy equal treatment with multinational enterprises," Qu Yankai, an official of the China Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment told *China Business Post*. The circular stipulates different qualifications for pilot enterprises according to their duration of operation. Leasing enterprises established before August 31, 2001 must have registered capital not less than 40 million yuan. Leasing enterprises established between September 1, 2001 and December 31, 2003 must have registered capital not less than 170 million yuan.

Some domestic-funded leasing enterprises entering the financial leasing business have attracted unequal taxation in the past. There are currently only twelve financial leasing enterprises with credentials under the charge of the China Banking Regulatory Commission and over thirty Sino-foreign jointly funded leasing enterprises with credentials under the charge of the Ministry of Commerce. These enterprises, regardless of whether they are involved in business leasing or in financial leasing, only attract a business tax rate of 5 percent. However, the 4,000 enterprises without credentials must pay 17 percent of value-added tax if they are engaged in financial leasing business.

## SOE Annuity Funds Get Green Light for Stock Market

By Sun Yongjian

Two state ministries have jointly issued a regulation allowing state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to invest annuity funds in the domestic stock market, *Shanghai Securities* newspaper reported Wednesday. The regulation, issued by China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, is the first to deal with securities-investment of SOE annuity funds, such as opening accounts and capital settlement, the report said. Ten clauses are illustrated in the document, regulating the whole process of securities investment, including the opening of accounts of the annuity fund, capital settlement patterns, transaction seats, information disclosure and so on. According to the regulation, SOE annuity accounts should be opened by the trustees in accordance with the request of the enterprise. The Ministry of Labor and Social Security will supervise the implementation of the procedure. The present scale of SOE annuity funds is around 50 billion yuan, however with 43 billion yuan of insurance products sold in the name of annuity added, the real figure totals 100 billion yuan, according to statistics released by the ministry.

## IMF Publishes China Report

By Dong Xin

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) published a report on China in Washington last Friday. It is the first such report since China resumed its legal status with the IMF in 1980. The report said China was concerned that moves to relax the yuan-dollar peg could spark a speculative wave forcing the yuan higher. "While acknowledging the need eventually for increased exchange rate flexibility, Chinese authorities have strong reservations about making an initial move under the present circumstances," the report said. "In particular, they were concerned that a small initial move could exacerbate capital inflows." The statement appeared to reflect a concern that many overseas investors believe the yuan is undervalued. However IMF staff said they were not convinced that the yuan was "substantially undervalued" and suggested that "a larger initial move would be necessary" if sizeable speculative capital inflows were to continue.

China's central bank said it would take a "gradual and safe" approach to loosening the yuan-dollar peg. A spokesman for the People's Bank of China quoted by the *Financial News* last Saturday said China would phase in moves to make the currency exchange rate more flexible. The yuan is currently pegged in a narrow margin around 8.27 to the dollar under a regime enforced by the People's Bank of China. The spokesman said any moves to loosen the peg would be complex and would need to take many factors into consideration. And he also said that the bank would "adopt various measures to promote this reform gradually and safely." At the same time, the spokesman pointed out that the data quoted by the IMF staff dates to before June this year, so some of the conclusions should be updated in due course. But as a whole, the report made a comprehensive analysis of China's economic and financial status, and gave some suggestions as to the course the Chinese government should follow.

## Doctors to Publish Prescription Lists

By Pan Hao

According to a regulation jointed issued by the National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Health, hospital departments and doctors are required to regularly publish prescription lists. Also, the proper usage of drugs will be a qualification for promotion, Xinhua News Agency reported on Sunday. At present, the amount spent by consumers on drugs remains high, despite a gradual reduction in retail prices. This is due to over-prescription and improper usage of drugs by some hospital and doctors, caused in part by doctors being paid bonuses for prescribing certain drugs, the report said. According to the new regulation, all medical institutions are required to address this problem to ensure that doctors prescribe drugs in accordance with therapy rules and medicine guidelines. In addition to the above measures, doctors must provide patients with either a written prescription or a computer printout, and patients will be free to buy the prescribed drugs from any hospital, medical institution or pharmacy. The regulation also states that heads of medical institutions will be responsible for price management of medicine, and required to improve medical records systems and implement fee checking regulations.

## Electronic Seal Provides Security Assurance

By Qiu Jiaoning

An application system has been established for the security of electronic seals in order to safeguard their legitimacy and preserve trade order, Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday. The system applies advanced certification authority (CA) technology to the security administration of electronic seals. It strengthens the management of procedures such as approval, manufacture and application, and ensures that holders can be truly and reliable identified. Electronic seals can be official seals or personal seals. Such seals have a wide application in electronic government affairs and e-commerce, such as tax declaration, annual inspection, settlement and contract signing. The system is built on a nationwide unified database and has passed technology inspection by Ministry of Public Security.

## Price of Electricity Increases

By Qiu Jiaoning

The price of electricity for domestic use has increased 0.04 yuan per kilowatt-hour, according to an announcement by the Beijing Development and Reform Commission this week. The price rise took effect Wednesday. According to the commission, the price rise is proportionate to increases in the cost of generating electricity. Seventy percent of electricity used in Beijing is purchased from power plants in neighboring cities. In addition, the price of coal has risen this year, which has contributed to the increased cost of generating electricity. The commission also said that the structure of electricity prices should be rationalized. Charges for domestic electricity have always been lower than commercial and industrial rates, which were raised in Beijing in June. Since then, the ratio of electricity pricing for different sectors has been unbalanced. Another reason for the increase stated by the commission was that a balance should be maintained between supply and demand, and economy should be encouraged. The proportion of electricity used domestically has increased from 15 percent in 2000 to 17.6 percent in 2003, and is predicted to reach 19.6 percent this year. In order to ensure a regular supply to the capital, neighboring provinces such as Hebei and Shanxi have to limit the use off electricity locally, while their domestic electricity prices are higher than that of Beijing.

## Malaysia Revises China Tourist Visa Policy

By Deng Minjie

Malaysia has recently revised its tourist visa policy and extended the period of validity from 14 to 30 days for Chinese, in a move aimed at attracting more Chinese tourists. Musdafa Bin Ibrahim, a visa official from Malaysian embassy told *Beijing Today* Tuesday that over 400,000 people from around the world visited Malaysia each year, a growing percentage of whom come from China. The application procedure and charge of 80 yuan remain unchanged.

## International Public Service Examination Registration

By Qiu Jiaoning

People intending to take part in the selection examination for international public servant candidates can register at the training center of the Beijing Construction Group next Thursday and Friday, *Star Daily* reported Wednesday. The Ministry of Personnel will hold selection examinations in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu, under the authority of the United Nations. Applicants are being sought in groups divided into simultaneous interpretation and occupational, covering the fields of administration, finance, humanitarian affairs, human rights, public information, social affairs, Chinese-language interpreters and English. Those who pass the examination on November 21 will be placed on the candidate list and be qualified to take the next examination held by the United Nations in China in February 2005.





# Honda Boosts Auto Output in China

By Annie Wei

Japan's Honda Motor Co. made waves this week when it announced bold plans for its two joint ventures in China.

Dongfeng Honda Automobile (Wuhan) Co., established in Wuhan, Hubei Province in July 2003, planned to invest 2.8 billion yuan to expand its existing plant and quadruple its production capacity from 30,000 units to 120,000 units by early 2006, the company said Monday. The expansion is expected to be completed by the end of the year and the joint-venture's work force will grow from

930 to 2,800 employees.

The company, which currently produces Honda CR-V SUVs, is expected to begin manufacturing Civic compact sedans in 2006.

Guangzhou Honda Automobile Co. announced Tuesday it would spend 1.5 billion yuan to add a new plant to beef up its annual production capacity from the current 240,000 units per year to 360,000 units by 2006.

Honda's annual auto production capacity in China should therefore rise from a total of 270,000 units to around 530,000

units by 2006.

The Civic models to be produced in Wuhan were not made in Japan and should carry price tags of around 200,000 yuan, the *Beijing News* reported on Tuesday.

Dongfeng Honda vice manager Liu Hong was quoted as saying the new cars would be introduced to keep up with market demand and be priced between the Honda Accord sedan and Fit Saloon compact. Around 150 exclusive shops would be set up around China to supply authentic Honda

auto parts, Liu added.

Honda's plans involved little risk due to the continued growth in demand for passenger cars in China, Zhang Weibo, an analyst at Anbound, a local strategy and information consulting company, told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday.

Between January and July, passenger car sales in China jumped 27 percent from the year before, while Honda's sales in this country grew an impressive 70 percent, Zhang noted. Some domestically-made Honda vehicles would be exported, he said.

## Sinopec Braces for Foreign Invasion

By Sun Yongjian

Domestic oil giants are scrambling to be ready for the influx of serious international competitors on December 12, when China's gas retail market opens to foreign capital as stipulated by the country's World Trade Organization entry commitments.

China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation, a major domestic gas company better known as Sinopec, has been particularly active this month, forging co-operation deals and expanding its gas station network.

On November 4, Sinopec signed a contract with UK-based international energy power BP to co-sponsor a joint venture in Zhejiang Province, Sinopec-BP Zhejiang Petrol Company.

The 30-year joint venture contract calls for Sinopec to put up 60 percent of the new company's 800 million yuan in registered capital and BP the rest.

Sinopec-BP Zhejiang Petrol will control a service network of 500 gas stations in the Zhejiang cities of Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shaoxing and focus on retail sales of gasoline, diesel oil, lubricants and other products, according to a Sinopec press release.

Sinopec also signed a deal with two other domestic oil giants, China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) and China Aviation Oil, to jointly establish China's largest oil conglomerate, the new China Aviation Oil Holding Co.

China Aviation Oil Holding's main businesses would be prospecting for oil and gas, petrol refining, pipeline transmission and sales and import and export of oil and chemical industry products, China Aviation Oil said in a press release.

CNPC will hold a majority 51 percent share, Sinopec a 20 percent stake and China Aviation Oil a 29 percent stake.

In a bid to cement its presence in the China market, Sinopec's domestically listed company Sinopec Holding announced through the website of the Shanghai Stock Exchange on November 2 that it was ready to purchase over 17 billion yuan of assets from its mother company Sinopec Group, including 1,023 gas stations worth an estimated total of 1.35 billion yuan.

Sinopec financial supervisor Zhang Jiaren said the company would invest 8 billion yuan to add 3,000 new gas stations to its network before December 12.

The holding company would also purchase chemical industry and catalyst assets worth a total of 2.86 billion yuan from the mother company, Zhang said.



## Rosy Auto Industry Lures Foreign Steel Giant

Jean-Claude Juncker, prime minister of Luxembourg, was on hand Tuesday for the official start of production at Shanghai Baosteel-Arcelor Tailor Metal Co., a new company in Jiading, Shanghai. The joint venture, set up with an initial investment of 267 million yuan (\$32.17 million), has a designed annual production capacity of 2.6 million tailored metal pieces and is poised to capitalize on increasing demand among key Chinese automobile manufacturers for safe, reliable steel products.

Xinhua Photo

## Former Arts and Crafts Giant Goes Broke

By Sun Yongjian

The People's Court of Xicheng District declared the Beijing Arts & Craft Factory,

one of China's top arts and craft product makers, bankrupt after running up massive deficits and liquidation has begun, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported last Saturday.

Liquidation has shown the company owed 46.27 million yuan to 25 valid debtors, the newspaper said. The rate of liquidation has been zero, meaning not a single yuan of debt has been paid back.

Beijing Art & Craft Factory, which was established in 1958 and focused on the production and export of cloisonne ware, jade carvings, paintings and other products,

earned huge profits in the first decades of China's reform and opening policy.

The company's fiscal crisis began in the late 1990s, forcing it to apply for bankruptcy because it could not repay its debts.

Subsequent audits have revealed the company had only 150,000 yuan in cash, compared to over 46 million yuan of debts.

"I'm worried that the skills involved in many traditional crafts will be lost now that the factory is bankrupt," master craftsman Zhang Tonglu told *Beijing Youth Daily*.

## State-owned Banks Set to Charge for ATM Cards

By Sun Yongjian

Two state-owned banks are ready to start demanding fees from holders of bank deposit cards to cover the costs of printing the cards and purchasing automatic withdrawal machines, or ATMs, Xinhua reported last Friday.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Beijing Branch has already issued announcements at some offices that it would start charging 10 yuan per year per bank deposit card starting December 1.

The same policy would be implemented at

the China Construction Bank (CCB) Beijing Branch as of December 27, an employee of the bank's news office told *Beijing Today* Wednesday.

The two other major state-owned banks, Bank Of China and Agriculture Bank of China, said they had not yet decided whether to charge card-holding fees.

By the end of June, domestic banks and postal savings outlets had issued 714 million bank cards, according to statistics from China UnionPay.

domestic firm announced in a press release.

American Express stands third to credit card rivals Visa and MasterCard in the US with a 10 percent share of market, the release said. Most American Express card customers were wealthy business people.

## Dow Jones Introduces China Capital Markets Service

By Dong Xin

Dow Jones Newswires launched its China Capital Markets Service (CCMS), a Chinese-language service that provides real-time information and analysis to investors and traders in China's money and bond markets, on Monday.

Subscribing investors and traders could access CCMS services from Northern Star transaction terminals, Dow Jones said in a news release.

CCMS would be devoted to supplying timely, comprehensive and authoritative transaction informa-

tion and employ experts with rich experience in operating in the capital market, the company said.

Services included in the CCMS plan will include providing information related to market personnel activity and broadcasting announcements and activities of financial policy decision-makers and economic factors influencing the market.

CCMS would also offer information and analysis about financial policies in international monetary markets such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and the US, Dow Jones said.

## Citigroup Purchases 1 Billion of Bad Loans

By Sun Yongjian

US-based Citigroup, the world's leading financial and investment institution, has purchased more than 1 billion yuan of non-performing loans (NPLs) from a Chinese state-owned assets management company.

China Huarong Assets Management Company announced on Monday it had sold two packag-

es of NPLs totaling 1.096 billion yuan to Citigroup through an international bidding process.

It was the first time for China to sell the ownership of NPLs to an overseas investor by means of cash purchase, the Huarong statement said. The transaction received approval from the National Development and Reform Commission on November 5.

## Dell Pushing New Printers

By Deng Minjie

American computer maker and retailer Dell announced on November 8 the addition of two new printers, an inkjet and a laser model, to its product line-up aimed for the China market.

The printers, priced at 1,999 yuan and 3,999 yuan, would be retailed through Dell's proven direct sales strategy. Fu Biaobang, Dell's China general manager, said the printers were priced to be very competitive with rival products.

Dell was aiming to sell 5 million printers worldwide this year, an employee from the company's public relations department told *Beijing Today*.

Kevin Rollinis, newly appointed CEO of Dell, was quoted as saying on the company's website that Dell was preparing to release several new models of high-tech televisions, but the local company source said they were not slated to hit the China market for the time being.

## Russian Private Bank Opens Office in Capital

By Pan Hao

PromsvyazBank, Russia's largest private bank, opened its first representative office in Beijing on October 28.

Nina Gorodbina from the bank's Beijing office told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday that the branch was established with permission from the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

The new representative office was aimed at assisting contact and trade between China and Russia in such fields as electronic communications, media, publishing and

insurance, Gorodbina said.

PromsvyazBank has already lined up six domestic agents – the Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank, China Everbright Bank and China CITIC Industrial Bank.

Besides the Beijing branch, PromsvyazBank operates two other representative offices outside Russia, one in the Kyrgyz Republic and one in Ukraine, according to information on the bank's website.

## Hyundai Setting Up Local Holding Company

By Annie Wei

Hyundai Motor Co. will set up a new China holding company in Beijing within the month using \$30 million in registered capital in order to accelerate its development in the domestic market, Saturday's *Beijing News* said South Korean media had reported.

The article said the new holding company would include subsidiaries for the automotive, steel, finance, construction and other industries in which Hyundai was involved.

Hyundai subsidiaries such as Hyundai Motor (China), Kia

Motors, Hyundai Mobis, INI steel and construction firm Amkor, set to enter the China market in the near future, would join in the new holding company, the report said.

Hyundai Motor vice president Choi Johng-Sik was named the chief representative of the new company, the newspaper said.

A source from Hyundai Group (Beijing) Investment Co. told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday that the new holding company had not been officially established and employees had yet to take their posts.

## Netease's Ad Revenues Climb, SMS Proceeds Drop

By Zhao Hongyi

Online commercials showed a strong bounce in Chinese portal website Netease.com's third quarter revenues, increasing 24.9 percent from the previous quarter to 46.7 million yuan (\$5.6 million), the company announced at the release of its latest financial report last Thursday in Beijing.

"This was driven by our efforts to improve our content and increase our free online services, such as our 1.5G mailboxes and instant messaging application, POPO," Netease CEO Ted Sun said at the press conference.

Online gaming remained the firm's major engine for profit,

generating 160.5 million yuan in revenues, up 21.8 percent from the second quarter, following the release of games developed by Netease itself. The company said it was planning to launch more games to maintain its leading position in the lucrative domestic market.

Netease's revenues from wireless value-added services, however, fell 16.4 percent to 31.4 million yuan, mainly attributed to a decrease in SMS-related service use as a result of intense competition.

Market analysts have predicted Netease's main competitors to show similar rises in commercial income and drops in wireless services revenues.



# Fed Lifts Rates for Fourth Time

Washington, November 10 (Reuters) – The Federal Reserve on Wednesday nudged US interest rates up a quarter percentage point for the fourth time this year, citing healthier job markets and indicating it will press on with a rate-rise campaign.

“Output appears to be growing at a moderate pace despite the rise in energy prices, and labor market conditions have improved,” the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) said in a statement. The unanimous vote by the panel moves the benchmark federal funds rate – which affects credit costs throughout the economy – to

2 percent from 1.75 percent.

The Fed began to lift short-term credit costs in June from a rock-bottom 1 percent and said on Wednesday it expected to be able to keep on a “measured” course that has seen it raise rates at each of its past four meetings. With the economy showing signs of improvement, the central bank is widely expected to do so again at the next meeting on December 14.

## Local Report:

The People's Bank of China, China's central bank, issued a statement in People's Daily on Wednesday, requesting domestic

financial institutions to raise the foreign exchange deposit reserve ratio from the 2 percent to 3.1 percent, effective January 15, 2005.

The exchange deposit ratio means the proportion of the exchange deposit reserve the financial institutions hand in to the central bank against the exchange deposit they have attracted.

Liu Weiming, chief exchange analyst at China Merchant Bank, said it was a necessary measure by central authorities to strengthen macro regulatory control after raising the interest rate of RMB deposit from the end of October. It also hints that the interest rate on foreign curren-

cies could be raised.

The dollar's deposit interest rate in domestic banks is facing pressure to be raised because the annual deposit interest rate of dollars is only 0.6875 percent, but the US Federal Reserve raised the benchmark level interest rate for dollars to 2 percent, Liu said.

To curb the overheated economy, Liu said, it's another powerful monetary policy taken by the central bank when it seems not very necessary to raise the deposit interest rate for foreign currencies.

– Beijing Daily Messenger, Beijing, November 11 (Sun Yongjian)



Chicago, November 9 – New condominiums under construction are seen November 9, 2004 near downtown Chicago, Illinois. With the condo construction in the city at an almost record pace, Chicago could face a glut on new condominiums. Photo by Photocom

# Swiss and EU Hail Signing of Bilateral Accords

Brussels, October 26 (Swissinfo) – Switzerland and the European Union have signed a second set of bilateral agreements, as well as a protocol on extending an accord on the free movement of people to the new EU member states.

The signing of the accords paves the way for the ratification process to begin. The Swiss parliament is expected to discuss the treaties in December.

René Schwok, professor of political science at Geneva University said that membership talks would lead to great opposition from the strong bankers' lobby.

“They oppose any kind of membership talks because they fear that this would raise questions about banking secrecy, which has been retained thanks to the agreement on the taxation of savings income,” said Schwok.

The second set of bilateral agreements consists of three main accords – taxation of savings income, combating customs fraud and Schengen/Dublin – and six accords allowing Switzerland to

participate in various European programmes in the fields of agriculture, statistics, pension schemes, the environment and the EU's media programme.

## Analyst's Take:

The EU members all rose up against Swiss banking secrecy during negotiations between Switzerland and the EU. Neighboring countries such as Germany, France and Italy universally institute a tax system involving a high individual income tax to insure their welfare system. As a result, many rich persons in such countries place their money on deposit at Swiss banks to evade paying high taxes in their own countries.

In spite of being opposed, banking secrecy has been retained in the agreement with the EU, which allowed Switzerland to maintain its reputation as a safe harbor for global banking. With the wave of reorganization in European banking, Switzerland is facing a dilemma: brace the new wave or to take a wait-and-see attitude.

After all, signing of the agreement is just a makeshift arrangement to slow the progress of abolishing banking secrecy. If Switzerland insists on banking secrecy, related countries will annul the treaty. In that case, Switzerland will have no charm at all for foreign companies. Companies such as IKEA and ABB will transfer their headquarters from Switzerland to their own country.

It is imperative to share financial information on a global scale. Swiss bankers have got to change their way of thinking or they will get behind the times.

– Wang Lei, analyst of Global Research Division, Global Markets Department at Bank of China (Qiu Jiaoning)

We welcome the consensus that Switzerland has reached with the EU. The Bilateral Agreements II is satisfactory overall. And at the same time, they regulate and reinforce the cooperation between Switzerland and the EU – our largest trading partner. From my point view, banking confidentiality is

preserved in all the dossiers relevant to the financial industry – i.e. on the taxation of savings, the fight against fraud and Schengen /Dublin. We can therefore say that the Bilateral Agreements II are not going to threaten Switzerland as a financial center. People should be aware, however, that certain domestic accompanying measures -changes to Swiss law -are still to follow. And of course we need to keep a close eye on the actual implementation of the treaties.

And banking confidentiality remains protected as far as direct taxation is concerned, and that includes the Schengen dossier. Swiss negotiators succeeded in obtaining an opt-clause, which means that EU should decide to extend legal assistance to direct taxation to under the Schengen treaty, Switzerland would be able to reject this amendment without having to withdraw from Schengen.

– Dr. Manuel Rybach, Vice President, Head Public Affairs International at Credit Suisse (Deng Minjie)

# Trade Ministry Clamps Down on Dumping, Slaps Heavy Duties on Chinese AC Units

November 4 (The Trinidad Guardian) – Air condition imports from China have been slapped with anti-dumping duties of over 300 percent in some cases in a decision that effectively protects local assemblers of air conditioners.

The Trade Ministry's final determination, dated October 4, imposes the duties on units ranging from 7,000 BTUs to 24,000 BTUs, essentially those use in homes.

In response, local importer Clamens and Associates filed for judicial review and was granted a stay of the duties imposed until hearing. No date has as yet been set but that case was due for mention this week.

With the final determination

now in place, the duties are now in effect.

One importer explained that the duties would translate into a price increase of about \$3,000. That importer had already cancelled his orders and was looking for alternative suppliers.

“During the investigation period, the dumped window units and mini-split systems were imported at prices lower than the retail prices at which the complainant's like goods were being sold on the domestic market,” the Ministry's final determination stated.

## Analyst's Take:

Although Trinidad and Tobago

is a small country in the Caribbean with only a 1.3 million population, as the economic and finance center of the Caribbean Community and Common Market, other Caribbean countries make purchases there. In that case, its high anti-dumping tax will effect the total export volume of Chinese air-conditioners in Latin America.

More and more Chinese air-conditioner anti-dumping cases have sprung up in recent years. Argentina decided only Hisense air-conditioners could get into the local market two years ago; Turkey and Italy completed anti-dumping research on Chinese air-conditioners earlier this year.

But most Chinese air-conditioner

manufacturers did not pay attention. They still compete with each other by slashing prices, without concern for the whole industry. In the long term, malignant competition will ruin China's air-conditioner export business.

We hope manufactures' awareness of anti-dumping prevention improves, and they can maintain their export business by improved product quality and quantity control.

– Yu Zhipu, secretary of Electronic Components & Devices Branch from China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products. (Wei Ying)

## PeopleSoft's Board Again Rejects Oracle

San Francisco, November 11 (AP) – PeopleSoft Inc appears determined to repel Oracle Corp's takeover advances, even if it means alienating shareholders who want to accept the \$9.2 billion offer currently on the table.

The business software maker's board of directors delivered the latest rebuff to its bitter rival Wednesday when it announced its unanimous decision to reject a \$24-per-share bid as inadequate. What's more, the board signaled it is prepared to continue its staunch resistance, no matter how shareholders might feel about the offer.

Many analysts disagree with that assessment, saying PeopleSoft's market value has been propped up by Oracle's takeover bid. If Oracle withdraws its bid, some analysts fear PeopleSoft's stock will plunge by more than 30 percent.

PeopleSoft's shareholders theoretically could override the board's recommendation by offering their shares to Oracle by a November 19 deadline. If a majority of shareholders don't accept the bid by the deadline, Oracle says it will take its offer off the table and begin shopping around for other acquisitions.

## Eight eBay Sellers Admit to Phony Bids

Albany, November 8 (AP) – Eight eBay sellers were ordered to pay nearly \$90,000 in restitution and fines after admitting they bid up products online to inflate the prices. And more than 120 people will receive restitution in the settlement of the three cases, which wrapped up last week in state courts.

Spokesman Darren Dopp said the cases stemmed from specific complaints, but the office has not conducted a broad investigation of the online auction industry and doesn't know how widespread the practice of phony bidding is.

Three sellers were accused of making 610 bids on 106 of their car auctions under the user name “Mother's Custom Automotive NY Dealer”. They are paying more than \$28,000 in penalties and restitution.

In another case, the operator of an art auction house and two former employees were accused of bidding on more than 1,100 of each others' eBay items for more than five years to drive up the prices. Some paintings sold for thousands more than they were worth. The other two defendants were accused of making 170 phony bids on their sports memorabilia items.

## Singapore Temasek to Place S\$800 mln SingTel Shares

Singapore, November 10 (Reuters) – Singapore state investment agency Temasek Holdings said on Thursday it was placing about 330-340 million shares in Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) to raise around S\$800 million (\$480 million).

The placement, targeted at institutional investors, is the second sale of SingTel securities by Temasek this year and represents some two percent of the outstanding shares of SingTel, Southeast Asia's largest telecoms group.

The sale comes as SingTel's share price climbed to a near 4-year high on Thursday, following strong second-quarter results.

Temasek Holdings Finance Director Gan Chee Yen said the offering would improve the liquidity of SingTel's stock and widen the firm's base of institutional investors.

“We have seen strong demand for the stock following a very healthy set of second quarter results from SingTel,” he said in a statement.

Shares of SingTel rose 1.3 percent to end at S\$2.45 on Thursday, after the group posted a 21 percent rise in quarterly net profit, underpinned by its Australian unit Optus and other regional associates.

## First Case of Soy Rust Found in US Mainland

Washington, November 10 (Reuters) – The first case of soybean rust has been found on the mainland United States and could affect US crops for the near future, costing farmers millions of dollars, the Agriculture Department said on Wednesday.

A strain of Asian soybean rust was found in two test plots on a Louisiana State University research farm near Baton Rouge. USDA officials blamed the disease on recent hurricanes that apparently carried the fungus from South America.

The United States is the world's biggest producer of soybeans and is forecast to harvest a record 84.6 million tons in the 2004/05 marketing year. One-third of the U.S. soybean crop is exported for use as livestock feed, vegetable oils and food ingredients.

“We have confirmed a detection of soybean rust,” Richard Dunkle, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, told reporters in a news conference. “The chances for wider spread are very high.” The fungus does not pose a threat to humans.

## Marsh & McLennan to Cut 3,000 Jobs

New York, November 9 (Reuters) – Marsh & McLennan, the insurance broker at the center of a bid-rigging scandal, on Tuesday said it will lay off 3,000 employees, or 5 percent of its work force. It also said third-quarter profit tumbled 94 percent, hurt by legal and regulatory charges.

The world's largest insurance broker set aside \$232 million as the “minimum expected liability” for any civil settlement with New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who is leading a probe of the insurance industry. Analysts said any payout will probably be much greater.

The company said the job cuts were needed because revenue will be pressured as Marsh reforms its business practices. About three-quarters of the cuts will come from the Marsh Inc. risk and insurance services unit.

Marsh estimated it will take \$325 million of restructuring charges over six months, mainly in the current quarter, for the job cuts, but will ultimately save \$400 million annually.



By Zhou Ying

Reacting to a series of violent crimes against children this year, the Beijing government and local kindergartens have begun implementing measures to ensure students' safety such as installing alarms and even hiring former SWAT team officers to serve as guards.

Safety of young children at schools has been a major public focus since a man slipped into Beijing's Beixin kindergarten on October 21 and killing a teacher and a five-year-old boy. Just a month before, another man burst into a kindergarten in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province on September 10 and wounded 28 children, while one child died and another 17 were injured when a janitor went on a stabbing spree at the kindergarten attached to the No. 1 Hospital of Beijing University.

Next Friday, a series of safety rehearsals supervised by police from the Haidian public security department will be conducted at more than 200 kindergartens and schools in Haidian District to train students, teachers and officers how to react in cases of attack or other threats.

Wang Wendong, president of the defense department of Haid-

# Kindergarten Cops Set to Patrol Local Schools

ian's education commission, told Beijing Youth Daily on Monday that the rehearsals would mark the first time that public security training was applied at schools to enhance their safety.

Nearly every kindergarten across the city will also be equipped by alarm systems that connect to the central system of the Beijing Public Security Bureau so police can respond quickly in cases of danger or emergency.

Most kindergartens and primary schools in Haidian, Chaoyang, Dongcheng and

Xicheng districts have already installed such systems and some kindergartens have said they are considering hiring trained female bodyguards to safeguard their children.

Cui Fengxian, chairman of Beijing Capital Bodyguard Security Consulting Company, the only company of its kind to be officially registered in China, said his firm was talking with one kindergarten about a cooperation deal.

Talking to Beijing Today on Tuesday, Cui refused to reveal which school he was talking to

and how many female bodyguards would be assigned to protect it until a contract was signed.

"All of our guards are masters of martial arts, hand-to-hand combat and driving. The main advantage of women guards, as opposed to men, is they will not draw attention from would-be criminals," he said, noting that all female employees of his company were recruited from national police special weapons and tactics, or SWAT, teams.

The around 1,000 kindergartens in Beijing have nearly 200,000 non-teaching employees, mostly women with no professional safety training, the Beijing Evening News reported on Sunday.

"Most of them do not know how to deal with the sudden violence or attacks," Cui said.

However, not all kindergartens in Beijing are ready to put guards at their gates. Wang Wendong told the Beijing Daily News that for most kindergartens, the high salaries demanded by professional guards was a major block.

"I have seen the company's literature, and the salaries of professional bodyguards range from 1,100 to 1,350 yuan per month. That far exceeds what ordinary kindergartens can afford," Wang added.



This "da fei" boat, capable of running at 90 kmph and carrying a car, was used by smugglers to elude coastal patrols.

Photo by Photocom

## Celebrating Anti-Smuggling Successes

By Zhou Ying

The achievements of China's nationwide crackdown on smuggling, launched in 1998, are on display in the new "In the Name of Country" exhibition that opened at the Military Museum of China in Beijing on Wednesday afternoon.

The highlight of the show, organized by the Customs General Administration of China and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, is a bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz S600 sedan owned by Lai Changxing, the alleged mastermind of a multi-billion-dollar smuggling racket in Fujian

Province. The car's protective windows are three to four inches thick and even its tires are bulletproof, according to customs official Tao Yong.

Lai, who has fled China, stands accused of running a massive smuggling empire based in the port city of Xiamen. His company, Yuanhua, which means Fair Well, was said to be a front for smuggling everything from cigarettes and guns to cars and oil into China without paying duties, and estimates of the total value of the illegal imports he brought in range from \$6.4 billion to almost \$10 billion.

Tao told the *Beijing Morning Post* on Wednesday that 17 smuggled cars on display, including Lai's bulletproof Benz, would be sold by auction at the end of the exhibition. "We cannot give estimates of prices at this point," he said.

Another highlight of the show is a 10-meter-long motorboat capable of reaching speeds up to 90 kilometers per hour that stands at museum's gate front. "This is what we call a *da fei* (big flying boat). It can carry around 300 containers of cigarettes or one car at a time," Tao said.

Many visitors have been

shocked by displays of thousands of animal skins, including furs of panda bears, Bengal tigers, leopards, otters and lynxes.

"Most of the furs were found in one case we cracked last November, the largest single crime involving the smuggling of furs of rare animals since the establishment of the People's Republic of China," Tao added.

"In the Name of the Country" is open to the public until November 28, after which it will travel to Nanjing, Jiangsu Province and Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

## Cracks Open on Ancient Gate

By Dong Nan

Zhengyang Gate on the south end of Tiananmen Square is showing its age, as several cracks have reportedly appeared on the over-500-year-old structure.

The Zhengyangmen management office said this week that the cracks did not pose a threat to the safety or solidity of the local landmark.

A local man surnamed Liu called *Beijing Youth Daily* on Wednesday to report he had found a large crack snaking several meters up the gate's northwest face.

Later, a *Beijing Youth Daily* reporter confirmed that the crack on the nine-meter-high wall was about six meters long and half a centimeter wide.

Three more cracks were later discovered on both sides of the gate's main door. They all measure at least one meter long and the largest is three centimeters wide.

An employee at the Zhengyangmen management office told *Beijing Youth Daily* the office had noticed the cracks.



Local officials have said the cracks do not threaten the wall's integrity.

Photo by Wang Wei

He explained the northwest wall, where the first crack was found, was the outer structure of a newly built flight of stairs.

The office source confirmed that other cracks had appeared on the gate's south watchtower and that experts organized to assess the cracks concluded they posed no threat to the gate's structural integrity. He said the office would thoroughly examine and repair the gate next year.

Zhengyangmen was built in 1439 Ming Dynasty. It was severely damaged in the earthquake that shook north China in 1976 and was renovated and repaired in 1989 and 1991.

## Books Open on City's First British School

By Zhao Hongyi

The first British curriculum school in Beijing opened with style last Thursday as 103 students from 29 nations sang songs of thanks to their parents and teachers.

The British School of Beijing's campus lies on Sanlitun Road in Beijing's diplomatic area and follows the English National Curriculum for children three to 18. Students' progress is assessed through the UK's Standard Assessment Tests (SATs).

The school currently offers only kindergarten and primary classes, but headmaster Gilbard Honey-Jones said the school was going to add two classes to its roster in January and start offering secondary education in August 2005.

"We have the interest to build a new campus on the outskirts of Beijing in com-

ing years, if possible," Honey-Jones told local media at the school's opening ceremony. But he also emphasized that the school's size would be controlled to ensure the highest quality of education for all students.

Over 2,000 Britons living and working in Beijing have registered with the British Embassy, "but the real number is more than 3,000," British Ambassador Christopher Hum told *Beijing Today*.

To date, 16 international schools have obtained licenses from the Beijing government's educational commission, but only around 10 are operating at full capacity, while the other languish under insufficient financial support.

Beijing is home to at least another eight national schools, specifically for Swedish, German, French, Australian, American, Italian and Indian students.

## Sichuan Corruption Scandal Hanging in Court

By Dong Nan

A court in Sichuan Province on Tuesday suspended judgment on a case involving a former local official and his wife, both charged with bribery, after the main defendant unexpectedly rescinded his previous confessions and pleaded innocence, the Xinhua news agency said on Wednesday.

The public prosecutor told the court that 48-year-old Yang Yupei, former secretary of Gaoping District in Nanchong, Sichuan and his wife Zhao Xiuzhen had taken more than 2 million yuan in bribes between July 2002 and September 2003 and possessed another 3 million yuan received from unclear sources, the report said.

Yang received most of the bribes from lower-level district officials, the prosecutor said, adding it was the largest case of "official position selling" in Sichuan's history.

Among the 61 people believed to have bribed Yang were Liu Heng, former secretary of the district legal committee, former district traffic bureau head Cai Xuesheng, Xu Hongsheng, former president of the Gaoping education Bureau, and former Gaoping financial bureau chief Ming Fanguai, Xinhua said.

Yang's wife, Zhao Xiuzhen, stands charged with involvement in many cases as a channel for bribes to her husband.

However, when addressing the court, Yang said the payments were "presents" from those officials given during Spring Festival, National Day and other holidays. He claimed that he was not the only person in charge of promoting or demoting district officials, meaning his actions could not be called taking bribes.

Yang also said the 3 million yuan of funds he and his wife previously refused to explain was personal savings, bonuses and gifts amassed over the years.

"I have been working for 27 years, why shouldn't I have some savings," he told the court.

Yang's counsel argued he had never demanded officials pay him for promotions, but the public prosecutor responded that bribery could be committed through veiled hints, not only direct demands.

Because Yang withdrew his previous confessions given to police, the court decided to postpone its judgment until an as-yet undisclosed date, Xinhua said.

## Mother Bears Bear Bite to Protect Son

By Wang Fang

A mother committed an act of desperate bravery at a zoo in Fushun, Liaoning Province last week, stuffing her own hands into a bear's mouth when she saw the animal had bit the hand of her young son.

The mother, surnamed Tao, had brought her five-year-old son to the zoo in Fushun's Laodong Park for some relaxing fun. They took a seat outside the zoo's bear cage and Tao took her mind off her son for a moment.

When she looked up to find him, she discovered to her horror that he was trying to feed candy to a bear that had ambled up to the side of the pen's fence. Tao rushed to grab her son before the bear bit his hand, but got there too late.

The desperate mother then jammed her own hands into the bear's mouth and managed to free her son from its jaws.

Four zoo staff standing nearby rushed to the scene. "One guy used a big stick to hit the bear while two tried to drag Mrs. Tao away and I held onto the child's legs and pulled," one of the zoo



Tao sustained serious injury to her hands after heroically saving her son.

Photo by Photocom

employees told the local *Liaoshen Evening News*. The bear relaxed its bite and the mother and son were pulled to safety.

Tao and her son were rushed to nearby Fushun Chinese Medical Hospital. The doctor who cared for them later announced that Tao had suffered injury to one of her hands and emergency treatment had prevented any serious damage to the boy's hand.

"The bear would have bit the boy's hand off if his mother had not saved him," the doctor was quoted as saying.

Tao told Fushun media that she was not considering suing the zoo over the accident since her son was safe and healthy.

## Here She Is, Miss Chinese Cosmos

By Zhou Ying

Li Shiqi, the 2004 Miss Chinese Cosmos pageant winner, was given special recognition and a valuable prize at the Shangri-La Hotel in Haidian District on Tuesday afternoon.

Li, along with runner-up Yang Jie and third-place finalist Yin Yue, received a special Ernest Borel brand watch inlaid with 168 crude diamonds.

The three women were named winners of the pageant by a panel of celebrity judges from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan when the finals of the competition were held in Hong Kong on November 6.



Li Shiqi

## Cheats Denied Chances with Outdoor Test

By Zhou Ying

More than 800 students from Guanghua Girls Professional School in Chongqing filed out of their classrooms on Tuesday to take their mid-term examinations in the open air on the school's playground, the *Chongqing Times* reported on Wednesday.

The blacktop area, roughly the size of four basket ball courts, was covered with students from the school's 15 classes as 20 teachers stood watch, the newspaper said.

"We did this just to prevent them from cheating on the test," school principal Wei Yousu was quoted as saying.

Wei told the newspaper that the school's 15 classrooms contained an average of 50 students

each. "It is easy for them to cheat in the classrooms. Many students get high marks on indoor exams, even those students who do not often do their homework."

Many students said they backed the move because it would ensure everyone would get honest results on the exams, but others said they were dismayed that their teachers trusted them so little.



Photo by Zhao Rui





A security guard tried to stop filming at Anzhen Hualian Department Store

# Coupon Capers

Do store rebate schemes stick it to the shopper?

By Liu Zhaoxi

Spend 200 yuan and receive back a 300-yuan shopping coupon? Sounds too good to be true.

And so it proved on Saturday as angry consumers gathered at Anzhen Hualian department store, near the North Third Ring Road, demanding to talk to the management board of the store.

Wang Xiaoxi, a *Beijing Youth Daily* photographer alleges he was attacked by a store security guard who injured his hand trying to snatch his camera.

During the National Day holiday season, Anzhen Hualian store carried out a promotion: a buy of 200 yuan will be rewarded with rebate coupons of 300 yuan. This created a sensation by setting a record for Beijing stores for coupon promotions, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported on Monday.

The promised rebate was broken down into a confusing set of coupons:

- one 200-yuan coupon valid only during the seven-day holiday
- one 50 yuan pink coupon valid only October 15-November 4, and
- one 50 yuan green coupon, valid only November 5-25.

Shoppers returned to the store after the national day holiday only to find their pink coupons being refused by certain vendors. The angry costumers gathered at the store seeking explanation, and a photojournalist record the whole incident.

A store official told *Beijing Times* on Sunday that some brands at the store who had participated in the promotion during the National Day holiday had withdrawn, despite the coupon expiry date.

Scalpers were involved in the conflict. Since the promotion would last about two months, some customers did not want to return to the store repeatedly to use their coupons and sold their coupons to scalpers. The scalpers in turn sold them to other shoppers. When shoppers found they could not use their coupons, the scalpers mobilized people to fight the store, the official alleged.

And not just scalping. The store has already received counterfeit coupons worth more than 100,000 yuan, *The Beijing News* reported on Monday.

Such coupon rebate promotions have grown very popular in Beijing stores in recent years, but now problems are emerging. Consumers wonder who really benefits from such pro-



Customers complain



Photos by Wang Xiaoxi

motions. To protect their profits, the stores employ various techniques that include cheating customers by raising prices during the promotion season and limiting the products that accept coupons. You can be quite sure that Beijingers have something to say about this behaviour.

**Zhou Ping**, civil servant:

**Don't play with the public anymore**

No matter whether it's rebate coupons or discounts, many times the promotions cover up the true prices. The store should only ask for what products are really worth. Don't play with the public. Stores in developed countries usually mark the prices honestly and give a real discount. But in China, the market economy is still unsound. Such promotions are also encouraging people to be out for small advantages and this orientation is unhealthy.

**Yang Zhuli**, storekeeper at Wantong Market: **It's cheating**

The so-called rebate coupon promotion is deceitful. For a jacket worth 200 yuan, the store could mark it as 400 or 500, and then give the consumer a 200 rebate coupon. And the customer still has

to come back to the same store to buy stuff with the coupon. This way, the stores make customers buy more, sell things more quickly and still make people think that things are cheap, when actually they are not.

**Zhang Fuhuan**, customer at Fuchengmen Hualian store: **I don't like rebate coupons**

With the coupons, I have to buy things back and forth, endlessly. I've participated in such promotions several times and I've got tired of it. What's the point of doing it? I would rather get a simple discount where I can just buy one certain item that I want.

**Li Hongjun**, sales woman at Fuchengmen Hualian store: **It's about choice**

If you can find something at the appropriate price, rebate coupons can be a very good deal. Sometimes it will be cheaper than discount. But it just depends on how you choose the right price.

**Wang Qianhu**, China Consumer Association official:

**Don't generalize**

You can't make generalizations about whether or not rebate coupon promotions are a racket. Costumers can benefit from the promotion, although

it is also true that some stores use these promotions to hook people's money. Should such coupons be terminated? If customers reject it, then they should be terminated. What kind of promotion should we advocate? It should contain the following four characteristics: based on credit, straightforward, convenient and targeting a win-win deal between store and consumer.

**He Shan**, legal expert: **Legal issues over rebate coupons.**

Anti-unfair competition law has already made it clear that bonuses for prize-winning buys cannot exceed 5,000 yuan, the same with rebate coupons. So long as the promotion is done within the legal limit and does not harm the interests of consumers, it is OK to issue rebate coupons. But if the business raises the prices on purpose for the sake of issuing such coupons, that is cheating and illegal. (from *Shenzhen Special Zone Daily*)

**Rachel Ryall**, American student at Peking University: **Coupons are not that exciting for Americans**

Rebate coupons like those in Beijing are very rarely heard of in the US. In America, usually the way to send out coupons is that if you buy a large quantity of products, you'll get a certain percentage off the price. Even so, people don't get very excited about that, unless at very expensive stores. The culture of America is "give me now." If it's a coupon that people have to use on another day, they won't get very excited about it. And most people know how much to pay for certain things and if the prices are raised very high, they won't go for it.

## Mind Your Language

Author's use of c\*\*\* in title outrages some Nanjingers

By Wang Xiaoxiao

Anyone who lives in Beijing long enough will become familiar with words *sha bi*, considered the dirtiest of them all. A similar Nanjing insult *dai bi*, with nearly the same meaning, recently appeared in the title of an article, published in the latest issue of the *Short-Short Monthly*, one of the most popular local periodicals.

The title "*Nanjing Dai Bi*" created a wave in the whole city. People were astonished to see the dirty word appear in the title of a short story. Some thought this marred the image of Nanjing and its people.

One local newspaper with an article named "Are Nanjingers really so notorious?" last Friday even began collecting opinions from the public by leaving one hotline number. Another group applauded the courage of the author, thinking the story pointed out the bad habits of Nanjingers. Author Ya Lan, a native Nanjinger, became inevitably involved in the hot debate.

According to a report in the *Beijing Daily Messenger* on Monday, some citizens even called Ya Lan or went to her office looking for trouble. Ya Lan had to ask for police protection.

Native Nanjingers wonder whether the story harmed the reputation of their city, while others talk about the use of rude words in cultural works. People observe that gradually literature in China is no longer the same as decades ago. Naturally, the critics tend to round on popular "body writing" novels like *Shanghai Darling* by Wei Hui in 1999 and *Love Letters Before Dying* by Muzi-mei last year. Both featured sexual encounters among young people and stirred prudish debates in the literary field.

**Ya Lan**, the author of

the short story: **Nanjing**

**ers should ask herself some serious questions**

"I'm pretty sad and feel like crying. I am just a pure-hearted and conscious writer. What I want to do is just to write good articles. I am a native Nanjinger as well and I'm afraid that people might criticize me after I finish the article." But when the editor of *Short-Short Monthly* encouraged her to face social problems as a good writer, "under the encouragement of the editor, I wrote this story."

"Dai bi is a commonly-said word in Nanjing. People are even not aware of the bad influence of the word and keep speaking it out optionally. Personally I am sick of this word. Actually most people know this is unenlightened, but why can't Nanjingers question what that says about themselves? What I'm concerned about the most is what people around the whole country will think about us Nanjingers after reading my story." (*Beijing Daily Messenger*)

**Miss Zhu**, editor-in-chief with *Short-Short Monthly*: **I once hesitated.**

"At one time, we hesitated. After all, Nanjing and dai bi were put together in the title." "But the original attention of the author was good," she emphasized. The title was supplied by the author herself, not her editor.

She said the story really reflects the image of Nanjing and some citizens might be unsatisfied. "But if you are going to solve a problem thoroughly, you should first identify it. Or else, the 'character' will be passed from generation to generation." She added that in an investigation of the "Top 10 pieces of unenlightened behavior by Nanjing citizens", the "foul urban language" came top. "This shows our citizens have long known about the problem but lack the self-awareness to question their own behaviour." (*Beijing Daily Messenger*)

**Shi Zhanjun**, Literary Critic: **It is a media action outside of the litera-**

**ture itself.**

Without the media hype, the *Short-Short Monthly* itself couldn't have brought the novel and Ya Lan into the public eye. This is, as a matter of fact, neither a question of literature nor a literary phenomenon. It is a media action outside of the literature itself. By the way, the subscription to papers and periodicals for the new year has just began, and such a controversial novel in *Short-Short Monthly* might even raise circulation. (*Beijing Daily Messenger*)

**Yin Liwei**, clerk at Beijing accountancy company: **"Dirty words" reflected the true character and lifestyle of those youths.**

I just wonder why people make such a fuss when reading something "dirty" in a novel. I guess the novel "*Nanjing Dai Bi*" is not the first work to include so-called dirty words. When I was still in high school I read one novel, which told of the depraved life of Beijing youth. But the "dirty words" reflected the true character and lifestyle of those youths. Anyway, you words like "fuck", "damn" or "bitch" appear frequently in the lyrics of western music, especially in America. A recent song named "*F\*\*k U R B*" was even top of the US Billboard for several weeks a few months ago. We don't need to feel strange. It's becoming more and more common.

**A worker: I really appreciate her courage.**

I'm a Nanjinger and I really appreciate her courage to write out about our problems. Only one Ya Lan is actually not enough. More of us should be brave enough to expose our weaknesses, which we can take as progress for us Nanjingers. (*Modern Express*)

**A Chinese reporter just back from abroad: You hear dirty words in every sentence coming out of the mouths of youth.**

I've been realizing how harshly Nanjingers speak since last year when I got back. Although Ya Lan's story is a little bit in bad taste, it does after all reflect the current situation. You hear dirty words in every sentence coming out of the mouths of youth.

I remember once some of my foreign friends went with me to Wutaishan to watch a football match, and the whole stadium was filled with "*Nanjing Dai Bi*". It made me feel pretty embarrassed. The overall education level of Nanjing city is a bit low. (*Modern Express*)

**Chen Si**, a student from Nanjing: **those who use this word are mainly bad guys.**

I don't agree with Ya Lan's putting the word in the public domain. The word "dai bi" is for sure usually said, but those who use this word are mainly bad guys. If you write it down in the public domain, like in a novel or in a newspaper article, people might feel puzzled and think that saying a dirty word is kind of popular.

**A member of the Jiangsu Province writers' association: I'm shocked.**

Ya Lan sacrifices the image of the whole city and the citizens here just to make herself famous, which is what I can't tolerate. Yes, a novel originates from life, but must be higher than life itself. What we call the urban vernacular is actually not that weird. Every city has its own. A dirty word appearing in a title of an article is ridiculous. Most of us are up-and-coming people, including Ya Lan herself. Perhaps her original purpose was kind and she just wanted to correct the bad habit of speaking dirty words by Nanjingers. But making abuse the title is obviously improper. (*Modern Express*)



Recent books aroused debates: Chengdu Fenzi (Chengdu Mistress)

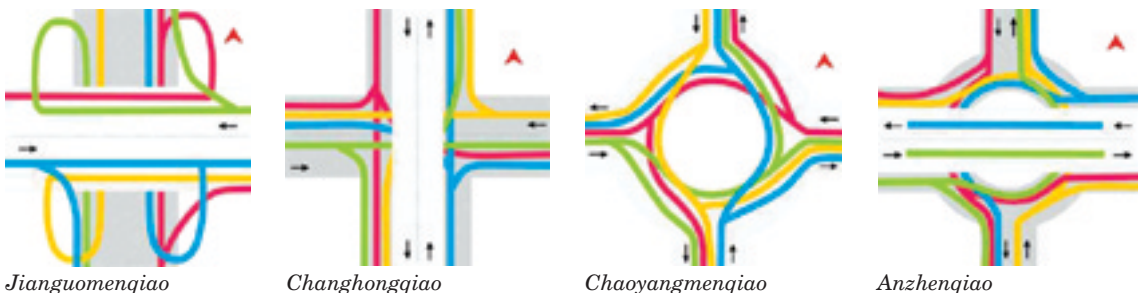


Beijing Wawa (Beijing Doll)



Yiqingshu (Love Letters Before Dying)





# Special Fried Noodles

Design of city intersections enrages drivers

By Dong Nan

Beijing has more than 100 complex flyover intersections within the Fourth Ring Road, many suffering near-gridlock at peak time.

Even experienced drivers sometimes feel confused. New drivers often get lost in their circuitous lanes, on and off ramps.

*Beijing Today* investigated some infamous intersections to find out why.

## Cloverleaf intersections

When asked "what is the most complicated and inconvenient cloverleaf intersection in Beijing," most drivers would choose Xizhimenqiao (Xizhimen Intersection, on the Northwest Second Ring Road) without hesitation.

"There are always traffic jams here all day long, even off peak time," says Liu Jinlai, a taxi driver. "I always suggest my clients avoid Xizhimenqiao in order not to waste their time and money. I know this intersection cost Beijing municipal government almost 200 million yuan, but why is it like this?"

"Once I drove from Jishuitan to Baishiqiao at 8 am to meet my clients, and I was supposed to arrive 8:30 am. I got blocked at Xizhimenqiao for almost 30 minutes, and then after I got free of the traffic jam, I found I was on the wrong road," says Liu Lei, an employee of a foreign company. "Eventually, I met my clients at nearly 9:30."

However, an interesting thing happened when Liu Lei explained to her clients why she was so late. "Instead of being annoyed, they laughed and said they quite understood, that they always had trouble at Xizhimenqiao as well."

"The design of Xizhimenqiao is terribly complicated," says Guo Jia, who has been driving for three years. "Besides, there are some directions drivers cannot follow directly. For example, if you want to drive from north to west, you have to turn right and go to Guanyuan, about one kilometer from Xizhimenqiao. It's truly terrible. Sometimes I wonder if the designer himself ever drove on it? I wish I could tie him to a pillar of the intersection and let him witness with his own eyes what a horrible thing he designed."

"In fact, there are many complicated cloverleaf intersections in Beijing, such as Tianningsiqiao (West Second Ring Road), Dongbianmenqiao (East Second Ring Road), Yuquanyingqiao (South Third Ring Road) and Caihuiyinqiao (South Second Ring Road). They might look beautiful from planes and do add an air of modernity appealing to many Chinese, but many new drivers cannot distinguish directions on them. Sometimes even our experienced taxi drivers make mistakes on them. And Xizhimenqiao is the worst," says Liu Jinlai.

## 'Mental traps'

"Some complicated intersections in Beijing are just like traps to drivers, and many are not in accordance with the psychology of drivers," says Zhang Kan, a researcher of the Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

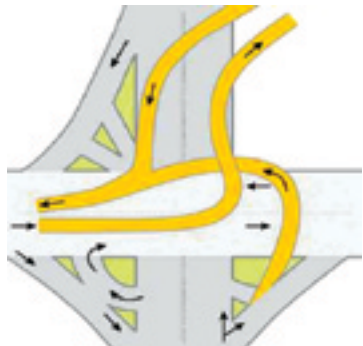
"Intersections are designed for drivers," says Zhang, "and in normal conditions, they should know which way to go as soon as they get on to the intersection, without thinking. Just like a remote control for a TV set - no matter what brand of the TV set, the methods of using the control are all the same, and people know how to use it without thinking or referring to instructions. But now in Beijing, intersections are totally different from each other in design. That creates a heavy mental burden for drivers."

"I began to drive a car in 2002,"

says Liu Lei, "and at the very beginning, those intersections really made a lot of trouble for me. Whenever I came across a new one, I had to think about 'how do I turn left?' 'Are there any special rules, such as not being allowed to turn left or turn around?' Sometimes I was so preoccupied with these problems that I almost had an accident. It really makes me nervous. After about a year, I had gained some experience and felt less worried at those intersections. But I think it is really hard on new drivers and drivers from other provinces."

Traffic signs create trouble as well - if they are simple and too small, drivers are confused and not able to know which way to go; but if they are complicated and detailed, drivers are even more confused - since they have to slow down and read them carefully. And as they slow down to concentrate on those signs, accidents can happen.

Around Xizhimenqiao, there are about 100 traffic signs, some to show the roads for drivers, some to tell them which roads are not permitted for left turns or U-turns. "Maybe it is a blessing in disguise for Xizhimenqiao to have traffic jams all the time. That's the only way drivers have sufficient time to read those signs carefully," says Liu Jinlai. "If drivers ever had to read those signs when driving at normal speeds, there would be more accidents."



Xizhimenqiao

## Other problems

However, simple design creates jams as well.

For example, every 9 am and 5 pm, automobiles under Changhongqiao, East Third Ring Road, form a long queue, which lasts for hundreds of meters. According to Guo Jia, that's because there are too many traffic lights at the intersection.

"There is a traffic light on every corner of Changhongqiao," says Guo. "Of course, they make the intersection safer, but the flow is reduced." The same problem occurs at Anzhenqiao on the North Third Ring Road. Automobiles that want to turn left from north to east have to pass three sets of traffic lights. And the time for each red light is long. According to Liu Jinlai, to turn left from north to east, one needs at least five minutes even when there is no traffic jam.

"If there are traffic lights on every corner and drivers have to wait for three red lights to turn left, why bother to build so many intersections?" complains Liu. "Why not just leave it as a plain crossroads and save money to do other things."

There is also trouble with the distances between entrances and exits of main roads of those intersections.

"The distances between those entrances and exits are really too close," says taxi driver Zhou Yonggui. "For example, in Jingguangqiao (East Third Ring Road), the distance was only some 50 meters. And I think the proper distance should be at least 200 meters."

According to Zhou, when automobiles drive onto the main road, they need to accelerate, and they also need to slow down driving off the main road. That

requires at least 200 meters. If the distance between entrances and exits is less, then vehicles get too close. It not only causes traffic jams, but also accidents.

## Suggestions and solutions

The unfortunate designer of Xizhimenqiao, Nie Dahua, 60, works at the Beijing Municipal Engineering Design and Research Institute. She refused any interview from *Beijing Today*. But in an interview in CCTV earlier this year, she says the reason why Xizhimenqiao was so complicated was due to the extreme space constraints. She says she was forced to make a plan where the main traffic movement moved down a wide, straight road, but all other flows became fried noodles.

Blaming the designers is fun and simplistic. But there's a bigger picture: "The design of an intersection is a complicated thing and needs the full cooperation of various parties. It is not only the problem of designers," says Wang Dong, commissioner of the Beijing Academy of Urban Planning and Design.

"The design schedule for an intersection faces many constraints such as space, money, materials, and surrounding buildings...and designers have to think of all these factors, not just the one factor of traffic efficiency," says Gao Liangdong, another intersection engineer.

If space is limited, a designer might have to shorten the distance between the on and off ramps. "And also sometimes the construction companies give the designer only a very short time to work, and it is quite possible for us to produce some not-so-impressive designs."

The big problem about Xizhimenqiao, says Nie, was the traffic estimates she was given. She was told to work off an estimate of 12,000 cars an hour, but in practice...

"In 1997, Beijing had about 1 million cars," says Zhai Shuanghe, vice president of the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau. "But that number doubled in seven years. Such a fast-changing situation is really hard to work with. Many intersections must inevitably become overloaded with traffic jams."

"The design of intersections is not the only thing to blame," says Wang Dong. "In fact, the whole road network of Beijing has a problem."

One big problem, he says, was a lack of straight roads between the three ring roads. This burdened ring road intersections.

"Beijing has encouraged people to own private automobiles only in recent years, and relevant departments might not have been very well prepared for that."

According to Zhang Kan, in many western developed countries, psychologists participate in designing intersections, to ensure they accord with driver habits and psychology. He suggested Beijing should adopt this method for future intersections.

"There are really many problems with Beijing's intersections, and some of them, such as Xizhimenqiao, need modification," says Ma Runjin, professor of Beijing Industry University. "However, it is impossible to rebuild all of them."

Earlier this year, Ma suggested that the relevant municipal department should release a booklet, which records all the intersections in Beijing, and explains all the traffic details about them specifically. This booklet should be updated every year.

"It is not the best solution, but it is the most effective remedy," says Ma.

Last month, new larger signs were raised between every intersection on the Fourth Ring Road. They are generally 500 meters from the entrance to the intersection.

## Nine Asians Appear in World's 'Top 50 Women to Watch'

By Dong Nan

Dow Jones this week released its first-ever global "Top 50 Women to Watch" rankings, designed to recognize women who have achieved noteworthy successes in business in the past year, as well as those poised to play important roles in business in the years to come.

It includes women from Asia, Europe and the Americas and is divided into six distinct lists as follows:

**Running the Show** - featuring women who currently head organizations

**In Line To Lead** - comprising women who have the potential to rise to the top of their organizations

**The Owners** - listing women who run their own businesses

**The Inheritors** - featuring women in line to inherit a company

**The Watchdogs** - listing women in top regulatory roles

**The Grant Giver** - women involved in philanthropy

The candidates are 550 women nominated by the Wall Street Journal. A total of nine Asian women from Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore and India appear in the Wall Street Journal's inaugural list.

## Running the Show

Among women who currently head organizations, Xie Qihua, chairwoman of Shanghai Baosteel Group, is the highest-ranking Asian ranking no.9, while Ho Ching, executive director and chief executive of Temasek Holdings, comes in at no.12.

Xie Qihua started her career in Shanghai Baosteel as an engineer. She worked her way up the leadership chain to head China's largest iron and steel producer with 100,000 employees and US\$22 billion in assets. Xie has devoted much of her energy to grooming Baosteel for the global stage and is determined that the company will become one of the world's largest steelmakers.

Ho Ching heads Singapore's Temasek Holdings, Singapore's state investment company. Temasek has stakes in dozens of companies that operate in nearly every key sector of Singapore's economy. Its listed assets account for about one-third of the market capitalization of the Singapore stock exchange and nearly half of the benchmark Straits Times Index. She first made her mark in the business world by straightening out government-linked Singapore Technologies, turning it into an US\$8.88 billion conglomerate.

## In Line To Lead

Female executives from Asia make an impressive showing in this category with no less than six out of the 24 slots.

At no.3, Indra Nooyi was born and raised in a middle-class family in India. Today, she is second in command at PepsiCo and has played a key role in remaking the snack and beverage giant. Her biggest moment came in late 2000 when she was one of the lead negotiators on the US\$13.8 billion acquisition of Quaker Oats and the Gatorade brand. Ms. Nooyi's tenacity and savvy strategic thinking on the Quaker deal were rewarded in May 2001 when she was given the additional title of president and joined the Pepsi board.

Fumiko Hayashi, listed no.13, made her name in the male-dominated Japanese auto industry by selling more cars. She became the top salesperson in BMW Tokyo's key showroom a month after joining the company, and turned the business around in its weakest showroom six months after her transfer there. Today, she is BMW Tokyo's president. Sales are exceeding last year's levels and she is aiming for a gain of 10 percent



Xie Qihua



Wu Xiaoling



Yang Mianmian

this year. Ms. Hayashi also hopes to enlist more women as dealers and appoint more female managers.

Arguably the most influential woman in China's financial system, Wu Xiaoling is deputy governor of the People's Bank of China in charge of monetary policy at China's central bank. Listed at no.18 in the "In Line To Lead" group, Wu has had a hand in most of the major financial reforms undertaken by the country during the past two decades. Wu's unprecedented challenge ahead is to effectively use interest-rate adjustments and other financial tools to manage growth.

Chinese Yang Mianmian enters the Journal's "In Line To Lead" list at no.19. Together with Haier's chief executive officer, Yang has transformed Haier from a small refrigerator workshop into a

home-appliance giant with global sales of more than US\$9.6 billion last year. In the 1990s, she spearheaded Haier's overseas expansion into developed markets such as the US and Germany. This gamble has paid off: Haier estimated in 2002 that it had more than half the US market for small refrigerators.

Listed at no.21, Naina Lal Kidwai, deputy chief executive, India, of HSBC, has participated in, and profited from, India's evolution from a backwater of global markets closed to international capital to one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. At the top of HSBC, she has been part of every step of the liberalization of the Indian economy and has helped Indian companies raise billions at home and abroad. Though Kidwai has been offered positions in Hong Kong, London and New York throughout her career, she has stuck with India, where she could help shape policy through different industry and government committees.

Lastly, at No.24 in the "In Line To Lead" listing, fast-rising star Yoon Song Yee is the highest-ranking female executive at SK Telecom, South Korea's largest telecom service provider. She leads the company's communication-intelligence task force to create a new generation of mobile-phone services and to design the next generation of networking tools to facilitate wireless Internet access via mobile phones. Yoon also advises the Presidential Advisory Council and other government agencies on science and technology, and was elected as a New Asian Leader by the World Economic Forum this year.

## Owners

Kim Sung Joo, who heads up South Korean luxury goods retailing companies Sungjoo International and Sungjoo Design Tech & Distribution, ranks no.2 in "The Owners" category. When she first founded a company to sell luxury goods in South Korea in 1990, her biggest problem was not uncooperative suppliers or restrictive government regulations - it was family opposition to her desire to be a businesswoman. Her companies have exclusive rights to sell luxury brands such as Marks & Spencer and MCM in South Korea, and within 10 years she says she wants to create the Louis Vuitton of Asia.

And in third place in "The Owners" listing is Fredy Bush, who persuaded Xinhua News Agency, Beijing's official wire service, to grant her and her partners what amounted to a 20-year monopoly on its market data with exclusive distribution rights outside China. Today, the 46-year-old businesswoman from Utah is chief executive officer of Xinhua Financial Network (XFN).

## The Top 50 Women to Watch

### Running the Show

1. Carly Fiorina, chief executive, Hewlett-Packard.
2. Margaret C. Whitman, chief executive, eBay.
3. Andrea Jung, chairman, Avon Products.
4. Michelle Peluso, president and chief executive, Travelocity
5. Anne Mulcahy, chief executive, Xerox.
6. Rose Marie Bravo, chief executive, Burberry Group.
7. Ann Fudge, chairman and chief executive, Young & Rubicam
8. Patricia Russo, chairman and chief executive, Lucent Technologies
9. Xie Qihua, chairwoman, Shanghai Baosteel Group
10. Debra Cafaro, president and chief executive, Ventas.
11. Anne Lauvergeon, chief executive, Areva SA
12. Ho Ching, executive director and chief executive, Temasek Holdings
13. Marjorie Scardino, chief executive, Pearson PLC

### In Line to Lead

1. Karen Katen, president, Pfizer Global Pharmaceuticals
2. Marjorie Magner, chairman and chief executive, global consumer group, Citigroup
3. Indra K. Nooyi, president and chief financial officer, Pepsi
4. Zoe Cruz, global head of fixed income, Morgan Stanley
5. Brenda Barnes, president and chief operating officer, Sara Lee.
6. Sharon Allen, chairman, Deloitte & Touche LLP
7. Susan Arnold, vice chairman, Procter & Gamble.
8. Safera Catz, co-president, Oracle.
9. Linda Cook, executive director, gas and power, Royal Dutch/Shell Group
10. Gina Centrello, president and publisher, Random House Publishing Group
11. Susan Desmond-Hellmann, president, product development, Genentech
12. Linda Dillman, executive vice president, Wal-Mart Stores
13. Fumiko Hayashi, president, BMW Tokyo
14. Ann Moore, chairman and chief executive, Time
15. Sallie Krawcheck, chief financial officer, Citigroup
16. Jenny Ming, president, Old Navy
17. Vanessa Castagna, chief executive, stores, catalog, Internet, J.C. Penney
18. Wu Xiaoling, deputy governor, People's Bank of China

19. Yang Mianmian, president, Haier
20. Melody Hobson, president, Ariel Capital Management LLC
21. Naina Lal Kidwai, deputy chief executive, India, HSBC PLC
22. Myrtle Potter, president, commercial operations, Genentech
23. Doreen Toben, chief financial officer, Verizon Communications
24. Yoon Song Yee, vice president, SK Telecom

### The Owners

1. Oprah Winfrey, Harpo
  2. Kim Sung Joo, Sungjoo International, Sungjoo Design Tech & Innovation.
  3. Fredy Bush, Xinhua Financial Network
  4. Dolly Parton, Dollywood
- ### The Inheritors
1. Abigail P. Johnson, president, Fidelity Management & Research
  2. Ana Patricia Botin, chairwoman, Banco Espanol de Credito
  3. Shari Redstone, president, National Amusements
  4. Maria Asuncion Aramburuzabala, vice chairwoman, Grupo Modelo
  5. Elisabeth Murdoch, chairman and chief executive, Shine

### The Watchdogs

1. Elizabeth Grossman, acting regional attorney, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
  2. Amy Butte, chief financial officer, New York Stock Exchange
  3. Linda Chatman Thomsen, deputy director of enforcement, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- ### The Grant Giver
1. Patty Stonesifer, president and co-chair, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



By Liu Zhaoxi

Barely a day after her operation, Ren Chuanlan, 63, of Zoucheng City, Shandong province, realized something was seriously wrong: she could feel her bowels weren't working properly. Food was being conveyed through a new route. Something was leaking inside her body.

She feared the worst and she was right to be afraid. The painful, incessant seeping never subsided. The hole in her digestive system never healed. Nine months later, Ren, a mother of five children, was dead.

Now her son Li Jifeng has told *Beijing Today* that Ren's agonizing and untimely death came about through no routine medical accident. He claims his mother and 3-7 other patients at Yankuang General Hospital in Zoucheng, Shandong Province, were used as live human guinea pigs for inappropriate experiments with radioactive isotopes by unlicensed surgeons.

The real cause of his mother's death, said Li Jifeng, was an "illegal nuclear particle trial on a human body."

For no relevant medical reason, says Li, five radioactive iodine particles were implanted in his mother's intestinal wall.

After his mother's death, Li requested an investigation into hospital practice by government agencies. In 2003, Jining Municipal Bureau of Medicine Supervision and Administration found that both the radioactive particles and the equipment used for implanting them, produced by Shanghai Yayi Company, were not registered products.

By national law, medical institutions cannot use unregistered medical equipment and radio-

# 'They Experimented on Mom'

## Grieving son says he can prove doctors ran radioactive trials



Doomed: Ren Chunlan in Yankuang Hospital.

Photo provided by Li Jifeng

therapy can only be conducted by a licensed practitioner.

Surgeon Jiang Sifeng had not received relevant training and did not have the required certificate, according to an official letter issued to Li by Jining Municipal Bureau of Sanitation.

The letter also said that the

bureau had requested the hospital cease all radioactive treatment and pay a 10,000 yuan fine. Li Jifeng was still not satisfied. He told *Beijing Today* that he is now trying to sue Jiang and his hospital for illegal use of medical equipment and illegal medical practice. So far, however, the local police and courts have not

accepted the case.

### Nine-month nightmare

Ren suffered an acute stomach ache in June 2001 and went to Yankuang Hospital emergency room. She was diagnosed as suffering from appendicitis.

The pain disappeared after treatment, but came back after about a month. This time, it was

accompanied by a touchable solid mass on the lower right side of her stomach. Ren went to hospital again and was hospitalized on August 13.

A month's examination at the department of internal medicine did not result in any explanation of the solid mass, and the department chief invited his counterpart at the department of surgery, Dr. Jiang Sifeng, to visit Ren.

After reviewing the Computed Tomography (CT) film taken of Ren, Dr. Jiang suggested surgery, and allegedly told Li Jifeng that this surgery was "not complicated."

Li was told by the hospital on September 13 that his mother had been diagnosed as suffering from terminal colon cancer. At best, she would live three months.

The next day, according to Li's written notes, "without a confirmed diagnosis, Jiang Sifeng hastily performed an operation on my mother," in which he cut out a large piece of the large intestine and connected the remainder with the lower part of the small intestine.

Nor did Dr. Jiang inform Ren's family about the radioactive surgery, Li told *Beijing Today*.

A week after the operation, Ren began vomiting. She felt her stomach was always too full and aching. She was having difficulty breathing. A few days later, an abnormal duct had emerged with intestine fluid burning a hole into her stomach lining. Black liquid seeped from the surgical wound.

In an interview with *Beijing Today*, Li, who is not a qualified medical expert, attributed the strange flow to radioactive particles in his mother's intestinal wall.

Radioactive iodine, that kills all human cells, had destroyed a part of the intestinal wall, preventing the surgical connection between the different parts of the bowel from functioning. At the time, however, Li knew nothing about the introduction of "radiating particles". That only came to light in January 2002, after Ren was transferred to a hospital in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province.

Desperate for an answer to his mother's pain, Li and his family had determined to transfer their mother to another hospital. It involved months of negotiations with Yankuang General Hospital to permit their mother to be moved.

An examination at Nanjing revealed radioactive materials inside Ren's body. Ren's daughter Li Jiyun rushed immediately from Nanjing back to Zoucheng and asked Dr. Jiang to identify the materials. Dr

Jiang told her they were iodine-125 radiating particles, according to Li's account.

Iodine-125 is a light radioactive isotope with a half-life of 60 days, and has been employed in tumor treatment in China in recent years. Professor Shen Wenjiang, a radiotherapy expert at the Peking University First Hospital, told *Beijing Today* that in 2001, when Jiang and his colleagues implanted the particles into Ren Chuanlan's body, this form of treatment was completely new to most cities in China.

The doctors at the bigger, more prestigious Nanjing hospital knew almost nothing about the technique, Li Jifeng told *Beijing Today*. In the following months, Ren received treatment at three other hospitals, but it was all too little, too late. In June 2002, Ren died of multiple organ exhaustion from suffering nutrition loss caused by a long-term leak in the intestines. She was 64.

### Why implant particles?

There are two contradictory versions of this story. Dr. Jiang says Ren had cancer. Her son Li says no, she didn't, and what's more, he can prove it. If he can, then the whole radioactive operation was unnecessary, and deadly.

One thing is clear: the operation itself was a total failure: Professor Shen Wenjiang told *Beijing Today* that radiating particles should never be directly planted into the intestinal wall, but inside the tumor. To prevent radioactive particles from burning the intestinal wall, the two should be kept as far apart as possible, he said. But the doctors at Yankuang Hospital implanted the particles straight into the intestinal walls, with horrific results.

"They are not licensed radiotherapy doctors and they did not understand this," Shen said.

Dr. Jiang Sifeng told *Beijing Today* his medical team decided to implant the radiating particles because Ren was diagnosed as suffering from terminal colon cancer and the particles would "cure her". He said he implanted the parcels in the "tumor area."

"Jiang Sifeng cannot prove my mother had cancer, but I can provide evidence that my mother did not have cancer," Li told *Beijing Today*.

In-depth probes performed by medical specialists after Ren's hospitalization in August 2001 did not report cancer. Before Ren's transfer to another hospital, Li and his family say they checked the pathology report. They allege it did not even mention cancer. After transfer to Nanjing Hospital, a second pathology examination revealed an infection — but no cancer — according to Li's written account. If he is right, then implanting the particles was the wrong treatment for the wrong condition.

### What were they thinking?

Li told *Beijing Today* that Jiang conducted a radiotherapy experiment on his mother in a departmental effort in cooperation with the Shanghai Yayi Company to attract more patients and income.

The company produced the equipment for implanting radiating particles and helped to set up the radiotherapy program. The particles themselves were purchased from Beijing. When operations were performed, a Yayi Company salesman was always on hand to supervise the process, Li told *Beijing Today*.

"They wanted to try the equipment out to see whether it was OK to use. If nothing went wrong, they would carry out the program and charge people publicly," Li told *Beijing Today*.

Ren was not the only patient to undergo such an operation. Li said there were probably seven others, but he could confirm only three. Another woman had died from multiple organ failures after the insertion of particles into her body.

The medicine supervision and administration bureau letter received by Li revealed that from August to September 2001, the hospital had implanted 32 radiating particles in three operations.

# Bribe Chain in Wuchang Hospitals

By Wu Chen

An anonymous letter uncovered serious corruption in pharmaceutical purchases and has led to a storm of "anti-corruption" initiatives at Wuchang District Procuratorate in Hubei Province.

One of the most important suspects, Luo Shunde, was sentenced to three years in prison and four years' probation on September 17. The case lasted more than seven months. More than 70 people were involved in this case, nine of whom were prosecuted and seven found guilty.

This case represents the tip of the iceberg for problems in the field of pharmaceutical purchase after a 2000 national reform introduced public bidding into the process. The aim of the reform was to force down fake high prices for pharmaceutical and medical services.

A CCTV report on Sunday stated a special investigation into the medical service and pharmaceutical prices all over the country has now ended. Altogether 15,000 illegal prices were found. Illegal moneys raised through fixed pricing totaled almost 700 million yuan.

### Anonymous letter

Liu Qun, assistant to the director general of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Wuchang District Procuratorate, was in charge of this case. He told Xinhua News Agency on November 2 that this case came to light through an anonymous letter.

Wuchang District Procuratorate received an anonymous letter in February, alleging a certain hospital in Wuhan had purchased the B ultrasound equipment. The corporate salesman had allegedly bribed leaders of the hospital to ensure the price of the black-and-white B ultrasound equipment was equal to the price of a color B ultrasound. Normally, black and white costs a tenth of color. But the letter didn't name names and consequently, sat on the shelf a while.

### Covert investigation

Wuchang investigators pre-



Bribes uncovered by the investigation team

tended to be salesmen and went to the hospital to enquire about purchasing B ultrasound equipment. They finally found Lan Huali, a saleswoman of Hubei Hongtong Curatorial Corporation.

Pretending to be buyers of medical equipment, two investigators invited Lan to talk about business on February 17. Lan really wanted their business and to convince them, repeated stories of how she had already bribed other hospital leaders.

Comprehending the convincing evidence, the investigators asked Zhang Xianqiang, president of the corporation hospital, to answer formal questioning. After the interrogation, Zhang was found to have accepted three bribes worth a total of 38,000 yuan.

At the same time, other investigators rushed into the Hubei Hongtong Curatorial Corporation unannounced. They finally found a secret accounts book in the home of the general manager of the corporation. In the book, the evidence of bribing Li Xiaoming, an official of Hubei Pharmaceutical Supervision Bureau was clearly recorded.

After arresting Li Xiaoming, investigators maintained a covert investigation to find a further 70 people involved in accepting bribes through a chain of corruption that ran from pharmaceutical corporations to pharmaceutical purchase offices to hospitals officials themselves.



A suspect is interrogated.

### Shocking

Luo Shunde, former dean of the People's Hospital Pharmacy Department of Wuhan University, had the right to buy drugs. From January 2003 to February 2004, he altogether accepted 40,000 yuan, \$3,800 and 2,000 Hong Kong dollars from drug sales companies or drug salespeople.

He was arrested coming home from Macau. He had been invited to travel to Macau by a pharmaceutical corporation of Wuhan and received 2,000 Hong Kong dollars from manager of the company for gambling.

Li Jianping, former director of the Sanitary Administration Center of Hubei Health Bureau, was found to have accepted 86,000 yuan in bribes from January 2002 to January 2004. To put their products on the bureau's catalog, managers of pharmaceutical corporations bribed him with dinners, fishing trips or mahjong games. He accepted money from 13 people.

Yang Xiaofang, former vice section chief of Hubei Chengtao Public Bidding Corporation, illegally accepted 131,000 yuan and \$400 from June 2002 to

December 2003.

These officials all had something in common. First, they frequently accepted bribes. Second, the amount of each bribe wasn't big and the means of bribery was hidden. Thus it proved hard to garner proper evidence. An investigator told Xinhua News Agency that the amount of money involved was much more than that recorded in the final verdict. But assembling all the minutiae of credible evidence was a painstaking process.

### Reform

The national pharmacy circulation system reform of 2000 was supposed to introduce market competition and lower prices. Instead, public bidding for pharmaceutical purchase in Hubei Province raised prices.

Ye Bosen, general manager of Hanshen Curatorial Corporation, told Xinhua News Agency on November 2 about a strange phenomenon: "The pharmaceuticals which had won the bid didn't ever make it into the hospitals."

A doctor from Wuhan Union Medical College Hospital said there were lots of the same corporations with the same drugs based on where hospitals already had an established business relationship.

Hospitals have the right to decide pharmaceutical purchases. After bidding, corporations competed as suppliers. They often chose to bribe the people in charge of pharmaceutical purchases at the hospitals.

Patients complained prices were worse after reform. Chen Bin, a Hubei resident, said to *Beijing Today* on Tuesday: "Now going to see the doctor for a common flu costs me 200-300 yuan. It is too expensive."

An anonymous person in the field of pharmaceutical purchase told Xinhua News Agency no prescription office wanted to cut prices: lower prices means smaller "retainers". He also said the main problem was a lack of supervision of medical insurance organization and profit incentives at hospitals.



By Lu Pinrou

Confucius once said: "The ordinary man is fascinated by the extraordinary, but the extraordinary man is fascinated by the ordinary."

Through his friendship and vision, the French artist Charles Chauderlot has not only informed foreigners but also reminded local people about the vanishing culture of city *hutong* (alleyway) life.

In this, the Year of French Culture, Chauderlot, a prize-winning, expatriate artist from Bordeaux, and a true Beijinger, merits special attention. For in October last year, Chauderlot published "Pekin: Ultimes Regards sur la Vieille Cite" ("Peking: Last Glimpses of the Old City"). The book's success in France, says Chauderlot, derived from informing people about the real Beijing, one different from the foreign imagination and quite different from the standard tourist information.

China has long captured the foreign imagination as an ancient and mysterious country, but Chauderlot is one of those rare expats to pioneer the demystification of a nation through his friendship with ordinary Beijingers and portrayal of their humdrum hutong world.

#### Falling in love

Chinese culture holds a special fascination in France. Even before he came to China, Chauderlot had read books and taken an interest in Chinese history and culture. When he first came to Beijing, he planned on a short visit.

"I was just a tourist when I came to China in July 1996, but I was totally overwhelmed by what I saw: its way of life, the picturesque hutongs and, most especially, its art. I wanted to soak myself in this ancient civilization," he tells *Beijing Today* in an interview at his Dashanzi high-rise apartment. Chauderlot says he realized what books and guides had told him about China did not always match what he noticed himself with his own two eyes. He yearned to taste more of the authentic flavor of old Beijing off the official tourism trail.

"Every city has its unique character and Beijing's uniqueness lies in its hutongs and *siheyuan* (courtyards)," says Chauderlot. "Heir to an imperial past, a city of fascinating architecture, Peking is unquestionably one of the world's most exceptional cities."

He decided there and then to return and stay. He returned in February 1997 and in September, enrolled at Beijing Language and Culture University to study Chinese.

#### Picking up brushes

As a western artist, Chauderlot's first instinct upon arrival was to employ his easel, oils and watercolors in depicting the old streets and houses. But after imbibing the subtlety and restraint of Chinese paintings, Chauderlot realized he preferred the contrast of black and white. He was at a classical impasse. Western artistic style, he found, simply couldn't convey his feelings.

To portray Chinese architecture, he acknowledged, the best, the only way, was to use the Chinese way of painting. This artistic conversion prompted him to adopt Chinese ink and brush.

Although it was difficult for a foreign-trained artist to abandon his varied palette of colors, gradually he came to employ the Chinese materials with expertise.

As he developed his new painting skills, he noticed it was useful to retain certain western quirks, key brushstrokes and a certain perspective. The two completely different styles of painting didn't have to clash. On the contrary, they began to merge.

Finally, he realized he had created something of a new method of painting, combining western painting skills with Chinese materials. Ask an expert today what makes a

"Only a hutong in Beijing could breed such kind and generous people."

— Charles Chauderlot, painter

Chauderlot painting unique and he might tell you the emphasis on light and hue is not common among Chinese artists.

The paintings themselves are deceptively simple. In them, Chauderlot depicts the daily life of hutongs, reflecting his deep understanding and passion for history. China's vibrant culture is imbued with serenity, comfort and elegance.

As the first foreign artist to paint Chinese architecture using Chinese ink and brush, his works are naturally quite popular with foreigners. But if anything, his works are even more popular among Chinese to whom he is well known by his Chinese name: Qiao Delong.

The theory is simple, but the practice requires diligence: artists from east and west should learn from each other, says Chauderlot. Just as his own art has been enhanced by studying Chinese masters, they in turn might gain something from the West. Chinese artists, he boldly states, should paint landscapes not from memory but by taking their art tools outside and observing carefully.

#### First day

Chauderlot well recalls the

surprise and interest when he set up his box of brushes and inks in a dusty city alleyway. A foreigner with brown hair and green eyes, wearing a traditional black Chinese suit, was sat on a stool smoking a pipe and engrossed in sketching a small lane. In those days, he could really draw a crowd.

But familiarity makes the extraordinary ordinary. The strange "*lao wai*" gradually become something of a fixture in the neighborhood. Courtyard residents even began to bring him water and food. He, in turn, was delighted by their hospitality. "Only a hutong in Beijing could breed such kind and generous people," he says. Yesterday's crowd of gawping strangers are today's group of old friends.

In that fateful first year, Chauderlot had almost finished painting one afternoon when a woman stopped by to appreciate his work. They chatted and finally, the woman told him that day was a very important day to Chinese people: the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"I was very surprised," says Chauderlot, "and was invited to have dinner in the woman's house. That day was the first time for me to enter a real *siheyuan*, and I had my first mooncakes, as well as the happiest dinner with the woman's family."

He pauses and looks into the distance.

"I love Beijing's hutongs and the way of life people there live," he says.

#### A thousand words

Every painting has a story.

"When I looks at this one, it always reminds me of the fragrant tea made by the old man in Shishahai, the hot water that an ordinary woman



"As an artist, my work is to draw all these beautiful houses and streets. That's the meaning of painting, and the joys of an artist," says Chauderlot.

## Artist Captures History with Ink and Brush

Frenchman races against time to paint beloved hutongs



"The charm of Chinese art, the magnificent, elegant furniture from the old empires, the tiles on the eaves of ancient buildings, the Imperial Palace, and the beautiful residential houses: all have given me the inspirations to draw," says Charles Chauderlot.

Photos and pictures provided by Charles Chauderlot

in Shenlujie brought me, the innocent smiles of the children, and small talks with these local people," he smiles.

As his time here lengthens, his knowledge grows. Drawing in the streets still draws crowds. At first, he was just drawing. But gradually, as he got to know people, older residents would tell him more information about the old houses.

They pointed out *mendun'r*, the traditional gateposts, and explained their meaning. They discussed the origins of names, sculptures under the roof, the tiles and eaves. Chauderlot finally published a book of breathtaking detail on the courtyards and the Imperial Palace, a book which added new knowledge to the canon of Chinese experts.

#### Globalization

Chauderlot today likes nothing more than to wander through the old city, where his footprints have been left on every alley, big and small. With a trained eye, he is always searching for something interesting in the houses and courtyards.

When asked where his office is located, Chauderlot always

square meters, built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in downtown Beijing. When Chauderlot learned from a newspaper article in June this year that the house would be razed, he rushed to see it one last time.

That morning, he sat down in the corner to work, and completed this painting before evening. He ate one sandwich all day.

He does not argue against anyone who states that globalization brings important material benefits to ordinary Chinese. But Beijing has embraced globalization with a passion unparalleled throughout the world. Walls have come down, highways emerged and skyscrapers risen.

As an old friend of China, Chauderlot argues that change for change's sake is not one of the Olympic ideals and he mourns the death of living history.

As an artist, he says, he can do little about it. All he can do is paint more pictures of beautiful ancient buildings destined for a date with the bulldozers.

He hopes to draw government and popular attention to the ongoing catastrophe of New Beijing development.

#### Fame and acclaim

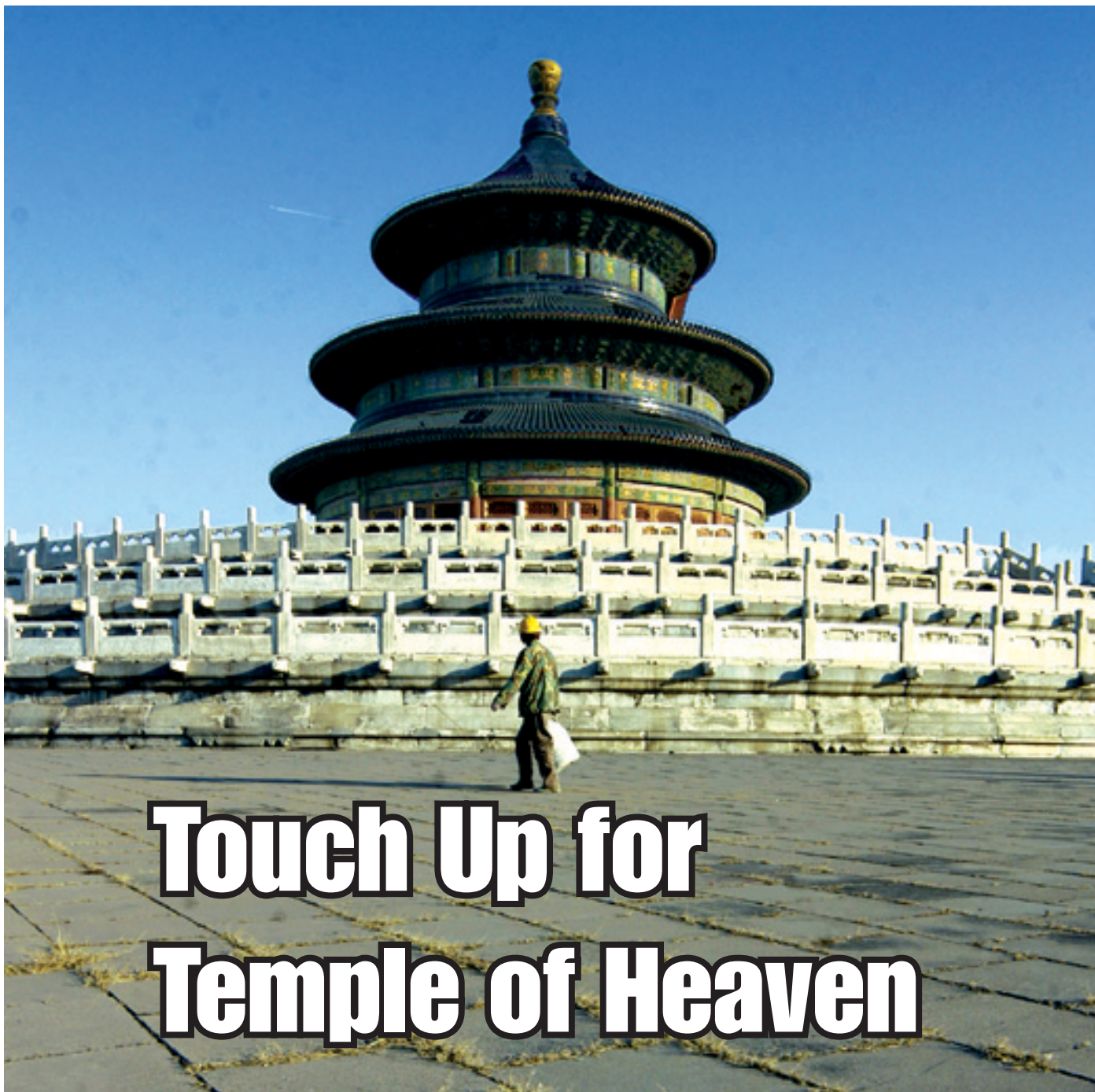
Since 1998, Chauderlot has held exhibitions in Beijing and Shanghai. "An Exhibition of Ink and Wash paintings by Charles Chauderlot" was held at the Hualai Gallery in the capital city in October 2000. The exhibition was a critical success, with more than 10 paintings sold.

Foreign visitors said they felt more connected to the life of ordinary people in the dozy hutongs. The extensive media coverage made many Chinese friends realize the incredible wisdom of their ancestors and may have helped prompt a higher profile for the city's ongoing efforts at preservation.

Now Chauderlot has been honored as the first foreigner permitted to paint the forbidden zones in the Imperial Palace. But Chauderlot himself says he draws no pride from the escalating accolades.

What makes him proudest, he says, is when he walks in the Houhai area. Local people do not dub him "lao wai", the ambiguous label for foreigner sometimes employed by Chinese in a mocking or derogatory manner. Instead, they call him "Lao Qiao", indicating he is an old, old friend.





# Touch Up for Temple of Heaven

The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest is one of Beijing's most recognizable tourist attractions.

By Liu Zhaoxi

To pray to the Lord of Heaven for a year of good harvest was one of the most important annual rituals for the emperors of ancient China. During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the ceremony was held on the day of *Shangxing*, around the beginning of the first month of the lunar calendar, at the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest in the Temple of Heaven.

To prepare for the sacred ritual, the emperor would fast for two days in the Forbidden City, abstaining from wine, meat, garlic, the pleasures of music and the company of his concubines. On the third day, he would leave the palace in a carriage carried by 36 men for the Temple of Heaven where he would spend the night in the fort-like compound of Zhai Gong (Fasting Palace), before performing the ceremony the following morning.

The Temple of Heaven was listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site by the United Nations in 1998. The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest, the main structure of the temple, is undergoing the biggest restoration project it has seen since the 1970s. Currently, workers are repairing the bricks on the walls surrounding the hall.

The restoration will take two years and cost 20 million yuan. The doors and walls around the hall, including the Gate of Prayer for Good Harvest, the east and west side halls will be repaired, broken tiles and ruined wooden sections of the buildings will be replaced, bricks covering the yard and the three-terrace altar will be replaced by ancient-style ones, and the exterior of the hall will be repainted. The interior and other buildings in the temple complex are not included in this project.

## Multi-functional temple

The precursor of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest was a sacrificial hall called Dasi Dian, built in 1420 by the third emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Yong Le, 18 years after he moved his capital from Nanjing to Beijing. The large, rectangular hall was the central building of the Altar of Heaven and

Earth, and was used for offering sacrifices to the gods of both heaven and earth.

More than 100 years later, Emperor Jiajing, decided to reform the ritual in order that separate sacrifices would be offered to heaven and to earth. In 1530, a circular mound was built south to Dasi Dian and was given the name Tian Tan, or Temple of Heaven. Dasi Dian was demolished in 1538, and seven years later, a new, circular shaped building was constructed on the site.

Emperor Jiajing planned to hold Daxiang Li, an autumn harvest ceremony during which offerings were made to the Lord of Heaven, at this new hall, but his plan was never put into practice. The temple was left unused for most of the rest of the Ming Dynasty.

In 1750, more than two hundreds years later, Qing Dynasty Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) turned his attention to the Temple of Heaven, ordering the bricks on the three terraces of the altar surrounding Dixiang Dian to be replaced with *jin zhuan*, the gray bricks used exclusively for imperial structures in the Qing Dynasty. The next year, the blue, yellow and green tiles on the triple roof of the hall were replaced with all blue-glazed tiles. At the same time, the hall was renamed the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest, in keeping with the function it had served since the beginning of the Qing Dynasty.

The period of Qianlong's reign is generally regarded as the most prosperous of the entire Qing Dynasty, and this prosperity was reflected in the lavish refurbishment of the hall. "After the restora-

tion, the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest glowed and shone with beautiful colors," according to the *Tiantan Gongyuan Zhi (Records of the Temple of Heaven)*, compiled in 2002.

All this magnificence was destroyed by fire when the hall was struck by lightning in 1889, during the reign of Emperor Guangxu. The fire burned for a whole night, leaving only ashes of the building. The court was shocked by this ill omen, and Emperor Guangxu ordered the immediate rebuilding of the hall.

With no blueprint or other construction records to go by, the plan for the reconstruction relied on the memories of an old craftsman who had worked on an earlier restoration project of the hall, the *Records of the Temple of Heaven* says.

The China of the reign of Guangxu was considerably less affluent than it had been under Qianlong, but despite any budget restraints that may have been imposed, the reconstructed Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest was as exquisite as the original, although the artistic level of the painting of the building was not as high, antique expert Wang Shiren told *Beijing Today*.

## Out with the old, in with the old

Luo Zhewen, an expert on ancient Chinese architecture told *Beijing Today* that the key point in renovating ancient buildings is to "refurbish the old as old." In other words, workers should use ancient materials, skills and procedures to maintain the original structure and appearance of the building. This is how the complex of the Hall of Prayer for Good

Harvest will be refurbished this time.

In the years since the fall of the Qing Dynasty, in 1911, the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest has suffered war, revolution, and two poorly executed attempts at refurbishment, in the 1930s and 1970s, which altered its original appearance.

The repainting of the exterior was "poorly executed," Wang Shiren said, and the paint is now cracked and fading. The ancient wall bricks covering the square courtyard outside the hall have been replaced with concrete bricks, and few of the original *jin zhuan* bricks on the three terraces of the altar remain.

Qu Luzheng, vice-director of the Administration of the Temple of Heaven told *Beijing Today* that the goal of the restoration project was to recreate the appearance of the hall as it was after the Guangxu restoration.

The administration has ordered wall bricks from Hebei for the courtyard, and *jin zhuan* bricks from Suzhou, which are both baked according to traditional techniques using traditional materials, for the terraces, Qu said.

Meanwhile the construction company has employed an old craftsman, who has worked on refurbishing many ancient buildings, to supervise the painting of the exterior. The existing paintwork will be carefully scraped off to expose the bare wood. Using traditional materials to make the paint color, the repainting will follow the original design in a complicated procedure of 13 steps, Zhao Desheng, a representative of the company said.

The different seasons are a crucial factor in the construction of ancient architecture, Qu Luzheng told *Beijing Today*. The restoration of the hall has been carefully planned accordingly. Winter is not a good time for such construction work, and will be mainly devoted to the setting up of scaffolding.

The major work, including the replacement of bricks and repainting, will begin at the start of spring, at around the same time that, hundreds of years ago, the emperor went to the temple to pray for a good harvest.



Preparations for the refurbishment are now underway, but the actual work will not begin until spring 2005. Photos by Bao Wei

# Recompiling Qing History

By Sheng Mingming

The past 600 years has seen four major compilations of the history of ancient China. The first three were undertaken during the reign of Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang (1368-1398) of the Ming Dynasty, the reign of Emperor Shunzhi (1644-1661) of the Qing Dynasty, and during the early years of the Republic of China (1912-1949).

The fourth is the on-going task of compiling the complete history of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), which was launched in August 2002. After two years' preparatory work, the actual compilation work is expected to be in full swing by next year.

## 170 projects

Unlike previous such endeavors, which were largely carried out by assembling a number of famed scholars, or sometimes only one, the compilation of Qing history is to be carried out according to a project management scheme, and will be divided into 170 sub-projects which will be assigned through public bidding.

Two batches of sub-projects, totaling 66 in number, were approved earlier this year. By the conclusion of the meeting on November 5, over two thirds of the projects had been matched with a most qualified "project manager."

"The selected project managers, or authors, are mostly senior historians in the field who are recently retired or in their 40s. It is a pity that some prestigious experts are too old to participate in this historic event," said Professor Ma Dazheng, vice director of the Compilation Committee.

## 30 million words cost 600 million yuan

The main part of the compilation, when completed, will be divided into 92 volumes with a total word count of more than 30 million in concise modern colloquial Chinese. The project, which is estimated to cost about 600 million yuan (US \$75 million) will take 10 years to complete and involve the effort of thousands of historians. "Its scale is next only to the *Twenty-Four Chronicles*, China's most complete and comprehensive chronicle, which spans a period of more than 4,000 years," said Dai Yi, general-coordinator of the project and director of the Compilation Committee. Dai is also superintendent of the Qing Dynasty History Research Center at Renmin University and has specialized in Qing history for 35 years.

An initial fund of 25 million yuan was provided for the work by the Ministry of Finance this February. For the two years prior to this, the committee depended on borrowed money. Each sub-project is estimated to cost 400,000 yuan on average, and the remaining funds will made available in stages.

According to Dai, unlike the traditional chronological order or biographical style used in previous historical chronicles, the compilation of Qing history will innovate a "new comprehensive type of literature" in a general frame of five parts, namely, History by Period, History of Various Special Events, Biography (dedicated to 3,000 historical figures), Chart of Historical Events and Historical Catalog.

The 3 million-word History by Period is the general history of the Qing Dynasty, divided into the following sections: Founding of Qing Dynasty, Qing Army Crossing Shanhai Pass, Reign of Emperor Kangxi and Reform of Emperor Yongzheng, Emperor Qianlong Uniting Ancient China, Decline of the Qing Dynasty, Invasion of Foreign Countries and Peasants' Uprising, Self-Strengthening Movement and the final Downfall of Qing Dynasty.

History on Various Special Events is made up of 35 chronicles, covering a wide range of subjects, from astronomy and chronology, to geography, population, nationality,

law, agriculture, handicraft industry, commerce, trade, transportation, finance, science, Western learning, literature, drama, painting and calligraphy.

The historians are to work out their first draft on respective subjects within four to five years, and the following two to three years will focus on thorough textual research to prove each point. The project, originally planned to be finished before the year 2012 on the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty, may have to be postponed to 2014.

"We'll try our best to accomplish this historic event by the end of the 2012," said Dai.

## Late 90 years

As early as 1914, the Beiyang Government of the Republic of China ordered the compilation of the Qing Dynasty history. The work went on for 14 years, producing the 536-volume *Historical Draft of the Qing Dynasty*. Due to historical limitations, the disordered political situation and especially the fact that most of the authors were Qing Dynasty loyalists, the Historical Draft of the Qing Dynasty was inconsistent, biased, and distorted. Consequently, a re-compilation of Qing history was proposed soon after the founding of New China.

The draft resolution for the current compilation of Qing history, first proposed by Li Wenhai, a representative of the National People's Congress and professor at the Qing Dynasty History Research Center at Renmin University, and Wang Xiaoqi, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and history professor at Beijing University in March 2001, was officially approved by the State Council in August the same year.

A special leadership team led by Minister of Culture Sun Jiazheng was established, made up of representatives from 14 ministries, and the compilation committee of 25 noted historians began its preparatory work.

"Throughout Chinese history, it was quite common for a new dynasty to compile the history of the previous dynasty when its reign began. It's a pity there has not yet been a relatively unabridged and objective compilation of Qing history more than 90 years after its overthrow," said Dai.

## Precious foreign diaries

According to Ren Jiyu, philosophy professor at Beijing University, to ensure the new compilation is objective and true-to-history, it will be necessary to utilize the abundant wealth of historical information not only in China but also in foreign countries. "For instance, to record the Opium Wars, we also need to include the British side of the story."

The Compilation Committee had planned to set up five overseas workstations in the US, Japan, Russia, Britain and Germany, however this plan has been suspended due to the arising of unexpected difficulties.

"The establishment of overseas workstations is not only important to encourage overseas historians to participate in the project, but also convenient for domestic historians to collect materials and conduct investigations abroad when necessary, such as the early trading records between China and Britain and the Japanese archives on Sino-Japanese War in 1894," said Dai.

As Dai recalled, during the last years of the Qing Dynasty and early years of the Republic of China, an Australian journalist named George Morrison, who worked for the British paper *The Times* in China, wrote and collected a large amount of historical materials of that period. The 70 trunks of diaries left by Morrison are now preserved in the Australian National Library, in Canberra. "We should copy all these diaries, which are precious sources for our history," said Dai.



The Flower

# Hail to the Beijing Modern Dance Company

By Jacqueline Yu

Beijing, a city on its way to becoming a new cosmopolitan metropolis rather than just a political center, is acquiring a taste for modern dance. This is evident from the full houses that greeted Alvin Ailey's two shows in early October and Random Company's comeback show recently. But the fact that the city has boasted its very own modern dance company for nine years is often overlooked.

Hidden away in a quiet corner in the south of Beijing, Beijing Modern Dance Company seems not all that eager to break its silence in the city's art circles. Perhaps Beijing still seems preoccupied with ballet, and the dancers would rather spend six months touring the world and receiving "bravos!" from American and European audiences, who can appreciate abstract dance that focuses on releasing individual spirits with a less rigid control.

The performance *Beijing Today* was invited to see last Friday was a preparation for the company's upcoming European tour. In artistic director Willy Tsao's program, new and classic works are split fifty-fifty.

The opening piece was titled *Blown*, a collaborative, postmodern ensemble piece, chaotically and comically rendering Western corporate office culture scored to the Chinese Pipa musical piece, *Ambush on All Sides*. "This dance piece embodies Chinese understanding of "ambush on all sides" and it is a creation of all the dancers," Tsao said.

The performers all dressed alike in contemporary urban work clothes – white shirts, black tie and pants – but nobody worked. Instead, everyone danced in and out of temporary alliances, solos, pas de deux or trios, restlessly seeking their own destinies, one by one. But the audience could never really know what they were



Wandering in the Cosmos

all really trying to find, looking constantly from one to another on the stage; perhaps that is exactly the notion the dancers were trying to convey – futile business.

Following *Blown* were two new creations. The solo *The Flower*, choreographed by Gao Yanjinzi and danced by Chao Ke, pictures the life of a spring flower which, sadly, blooms in autumn. The dance opens on the center of the

stage, where a faint blue light shines on the sitting dancer, who wears only a long, thick gauze skirt, with two layers in blue and brown. Set to a new song by Chinese rock singer Cui Jian called *The Flower*, sung by Zhao Li, Chao Ke creates a heartbreaking work. His control is superb, and the passion palpable.

Dancer Hong Lin next performed her work *Orange Turns*



Blown

Photos by Wang Xiaoxi

## Sound of Music from the Yellow River

By Sabu

Organized by well-known vocalist Guo Lanying and with the support of many folk song fans, "The original sound of the Yellow River – 10 native folk singers concert," was held in Haidian Theater last weekend.

The three shows were the culmination of many hours of careful planning. What made this concert special is that almost all the ten artists involved are farmers or shepherds, who sing naturally from their heart when laboring, to celebrate nature, their hometown and rural life.

These ten singers are all famous among villagers, each stands for a genre of folk songs from the Yellow River area of northwest China, including Qinghai, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Shanxi and Inner Mongolia. They

are all either folk singers in the field, or members of amateur art societies, or folk singers appearing in all kinds of shows.

During the concert, many familiar folk songs were performed, which drew a large audience. "Folk king" Wang Xianrong from north Shaanxi performed his own work *Nowhere can be Compared with Our Town* to begin the show. Known as "shepherd singing king", Shi Xianrong from Shanxi then came to the stage. His *Red Peach blossoms*, *White Apricot Flower* impressed the enthusiastic audience.

Nobody could imagine the loud and sonorous voice that performed *Three-day Journey Finished in Two Days* came from an man who is almost seventy years old – Xin Lish-



Shi Zhanming

Photo by netandtv.com

eng, who has been lauded by Guo Lanying for his genuine talent. Mongolian Qi Fulin performed *Yellow River under the Sun*, hitting notes five semi-tones higher than even Luciano Pavarotti could have managed in his prime.

Ah-Bao, who combines folk music with rock to create a unique style of his own and is regarded as "local Michael Jackson", performed *Red Flowers Bloom in Our Beautiful Country* that touched the whole audience.

Other artists included the duo Jia Quanguai and Zhang Lanying, the youngest shepherd singer Sun Bin from Ganqingning area, "singing queen of north Shaanxi," Tuo Cui-lan, "the son of the grassland," Zhage Dasurong and "Queen of the flower song" Zhang Cunxiu.

### What's on DVD

By Sabu

#### Eyes Wide Shut

Stanley Kubrick's daring last film, in which Tom Cruise plays Dr. William Harford, a New Yorker who plunges one fateful winter night into an erotic foray that threatens his marriage – and may even ensnare him in a lurid murder mystery – after his wife's (Kidman) admission of sexual longings. English with English, Chinese and Korean subtitles. Special features include interviews with Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman and Steven Spielberg. DVD 9



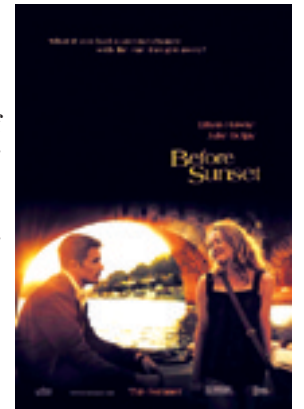
#### Samaria (Samaritan Girl)

Samaria, Ki-duk Kim's most recent effort, was shot quickly and on a low budget, though this never shows onscreen. It is a powerful and moving film that provides a thought-provoking view on the controversial subject of teen prostitution, and is well deserved of its recent win at the Berlin Film Festival. Korean with Korean, Chinese and English subtitles. Special features include theatrical trailer and behind-the-scenes featurette. DVD 9



#### Before Sunset

Richard Linklater's *Before Sunrise* (1995), pairing Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, told of a brief romantic encounter between 20-somethings in Vienna. In the movie, Linklater chronicles a reunion nine years later between the same two characters, and the same actors reprise their roles. The movie consists mainly of the pair wandering around Paris while they talk about themselves and their feelings. English with English and Chinese subtitles. DVD 5



### Rock Review

## Who Touched My Zhajiangmian?

By Wang Yao

Chinese hip-hop band CMCB's second album *Who Touched My Zhajiangmian*, was released in September this year by Scream Records.



CMCB, or Chinese MC Brothers, are seven energetic guys from different bands, creating a line up consisting of two vocalists, guitar, bass, keyboards and drums. MC Xiao Ou and MC Wang Zheng have been singers for Twisted Machine and TooKoo, well known rap-metal bands in Beijing; DJ Zhang Ran is one of China's top original DJs; while Duan Ran, Zhang Xinwei, Jiang Yihui and Zhou Xiaofei are from T9 and Collapse.

The seven got together to form CMCB in 2001 and have achieved considerable popularity since then. In 2002, the band was nominated as the best new rockers by Pepsi music.

Their music is Chinese-oriented hip-hop, with lyrics dealing with life in Beijing and their views on the current affairs. The music combines hip-hop with oriental musical influences. DJ Zhang Ran plays an important role in the music, providing a cross-cultural element which shapes their music as the leader of mainland hip-hop.

*Who Touched My Zhajiangmian* is produced by Wang Di, a celebrity in the rock world, and the production consultant is skilled electro-producer Xiao Fan, a member of E band. The band also collaborates with friends, Hidden (Yincang) on *Put your hands up*, in which Mark and Lao Zheng rap ancient poems, encouraging young people to work harder.

Their hit *Who Touched My Zhajiangmian* sounds a judgment of their own life, and the swing gives off something of a Middle Eastern flavor; *I (Wo)* is tight and heavy, somewhat reminiscent of Linkin Park.

The album also includes the song *Born in Beijing* (*Sheng Zai Beijing*), which was recorded during the SARS epidemic, and features many guest performers. Unlike the CMCB of old, the new album shows off the band's new image of responsible people who care about society, education and social order.



# Multinationals on the Hunt

By Xie Lixue

University seniors around Beijing have been brushing their books aside lately and rushing, resumes in hand, to campus auditoriums. This unusual behavior can only mean one thing – it is high season for multinational companies' early recruitment campaigns for 2005 graduates.

Powerful multinationals like Siemens, IBM, Sony, Intel and Microsoft put a great deal of effort, money and energy into their

campus recruitment campaigns, running lectures and other activities to let the next crop of Chinese graduates learn about their latest job vacancies.

## More grads, more positions

Ren Zhanzhong, director of the China Higher Education Career Center said some 145,000 university students should graduate in Beijing next year, 15,000 more than this year, and 3.4 million would graduate nationwide, an increase of 600,000 from 2004.

Employers domestic and international are hoping to find fresh blood and new ideas among that next crop of graduates.

Siemens Communications China is one such company. In 2002, the average age of employees at the company was 38, but it plummeted to 29 in 2004 following the hiring of many talented young people, noted Li Jing, project director of the strategic products management department last week.

The development of IBM China tells a similar story. Of the company's around 3,000 employees, at least 30 percent were



Heavy crowds of job seekers are swarming job fairs throughout China. Competition for the seven to eight million positions created every year is nothing short of cut-throat.

Photo by Photocom

recruited directly from university campuses.

"This year, we hired about 200 graduates either with bachelor's or master's degrees to work in different departments, and I believe this number will increase in 2005," Kuang Maogong from the human resources department of IBM Greater China Group told *Beijing Today*.

## No experience, no worries

Even facing such encouraging situations, many students fear that their lack of practical work experience will serve as indelible strikes against them no matter how strong their academic backgrounds. But not all recruiters think along those lines.

"I think everyone has experience," Zhang Yanmei, human resources director at Sony China, said on November 8. "Do you play video games or listen to the radio or an MP3 player? That's what we consider experience at Sony!"

Indeed, many major corporations deliberately recruit graduates for their dynamism,

creativity and great potential and plan to offer training to make them lasting contributors to the company.

## More opportunities coming

Around seven to eight million new positions are created in China every year, which may seem high compared to the roughly three million people annually who graduate university, but promising positions offering decent salaries are always very competitive.

One young man told *Beijing Today* that lectures provided by company representatives on his campus gave him a clear idea of what to do to be competitive for entry-level positions and what multinationals would expect from technology staff.

Deng Jianhui, vice-deputy of the Party Committee at Tsinghua University, noted that job-hunting was not a one-step, simple process. Therefore, many universities invite companies to come to campus to give students a real feel of the professional world outside the more theoretical lessons offered in college classes.

## Siemens China Primes 400 Positions for Grads

By Xie Lixue

"We are looking for solution providers," Li Jing and Li Jiashu, senior management officers from Siemens China, told hundreds of students at the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications on November 6 before taking their recruitment program to other cities.

Since Siemens Communications China established in 2000, young professionals have been regularly hired and asked to contribute fresh ideas, a strategy that partly accounts for the cool designs of Siemens' mobile phones.

Unlike competitors, Siemens tries to put forth a complete design plan for every product that is carefully tuned to specific markets' cultures and fashions.

For example, Siemens has worked to develop more flip phones or folding phones for the Asia market, where such designs are the most popular, while sticking with straight styles in the more receptive US and European markets.

Siemens China plans to hire 150 new employees for its country headquarters in Beijing and 245 people for its joint ventures and branch companies, more than half of whom will go to rapidly growing Siemens Communications Group.

## Q: How long will this recruitment push last?

A: We are delivering university lectures throughout China between October 23 and November 18.

The first round of interviews in Beijing will start around November 20. If everything goes well, most applicants will receive job offers by the end of this year.

## Q: How many university graduates are being recruited for your Siemens Communications' research and development center?

A: At least 80 graduated students are needed, including software engineers, mobile testing engineers, global procurement reporting and controlling specialists and sourcing specialists. Holders of bachelor's and master's degrees are welcomed.

A complete list of positions available and detailed requirements can be found at: <http://campus.chinahr.com/siemens>.

## Q: Why does Siemens not use standardized examinations for recruiting?

A: Siemens China has many joint ventures and branches and applicants come from all parts of the nation.

Therefore, our headquarters cannot set concrete recruitment dates or relevant tests for each branch and applicant.



Costumed performers act in a promotion for Sohu.com's Knife vs. Sword online game at the Beijing International Internet Culture Expo on October 28. The lucrative online gaming field is one of the fastest growing industries in China.

Photo by Photocom

# Get in the Game!

Explosion of online gaming industry good news for job-seekers

By Zhang Nan

As a trip to any local cyber cafe will quickly reveal, online gaming is booming in China. Whether its to team up and blow away virtual terrorists, to go into head-on-head kung-fu combat or to simply mess around in artificial worlds with new friends, young people around the country are logging into Internet-based game universes in record numbers, creating one of the most promising markets in the whole country.

That means companies are desperate to crank out new, cutting edge material, which in turn spells many great job opportunities for skilled game designers and programmers.

## Many players, few designers

In 2003, China's cyber-game market grew a whopping 46 percent from the year before to hit a volume of 1.32 billion yuan. And that figure is just going to keep going up, reaching 6.7 billion yuan in 2007, according to a survey conducted by the International Data Corporation (IDC).

"China has 87 million netizens, at least 13.8 million of whom are regular cyber-game players," said Wang Xizan, section chief of the China Working Training and Skill Instruction Center, a sub-organ of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

"However, the cyber-game design workforce in China is just around 6,000 strong, and of those people, only half

are properly qualified and really professional," Wang conceded while talking to the press after founding the "Tsinghua Wisdom Cyber-Game Designer Training Plan" last September in Beijing.

"Most of the people working in the cyber-game field have not received professional or systematic training," Liu told *Beijing Youth Daily* earlier this month. "And software companies generally do not spend enough time or money on training their staff."

## Advice from a pro

South Korea's Fovix Information Communications Co. introduced the popular online games *Legend* and *A3* in China years ago. Fovix's CEO, Mr. Nho H.S., suggests Chinese companies cooperate with foreign companies to build up their design teams quickly and efficiently.

"China does not lag behind other nations like South Korea in terms of computer program developing and art design," Nho said at a press conference last month, "but the workforce in the Chinese industry is relatively inexperienced."

In Korea, gaming teachers at universities were normally experienced game developers, not academics or researchers, he said. South Korean designers, who tend to be between 25 and 30 years old, also have the advantage of having played online games for up to a decade, giving them a firm understanding of

what players do and do not like.

## Bring it on home

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Information Industry and the Ministry of Science and Technology named cyber gaming one of the mainstay industries of the IT field and listed the gaming sector in the country's 863 Plan, a national program for the promotion of high-tech industries that receive priority for government funding and support.

The Beijing municipal government has also entered the fray, launching a major training program in the middle of this year.

With that program, and a move by Beijing-based Huizhong Yizhi Science and Technology Co. to set up China's first online game design college with the Vocational Training Council of Hong Kong government in the capital last August, Beijing is well on the way to becoming a boom town for the cyber-entertainment industry.

One month later, professional IT training institution Tsinghua Wisdom Network Tech Co. and South Korea's Fovix announced a "Game Designer Training Plan" to give rise to more trained professionals to meet market demand.

Universities around China are also setting up majors and departments of online game design, according to a *Beijing Youth Daily* report of two weeks ago.

## Jobs

Beijing Fei Wanda is looking for three print designers, two commercial ad collectors and two secretaries. Contact: 8737 8652 ext. 82, email: kf@fwd863.com

Webmasters wanted. Familiar with Internet, web page design, and music composing software, love music. Contact Mr. Hu at: 6333 1671 ext. 8006

A graduate of information management from Huazhong S&T University in Wuhan, sophisticated in C/C++, VC6.0, VFP, Access, SQL Server, Activex and software developing, familiar with Flash, Photoshop, Excel, PP uses. Also familiar with medical English and Latin. Contact: 13622751429 Email: waiiru@sohu.com, sonx7@163.com

Looking for two engineers in wastewater disposal and treatment. English and AUTOCAD are musts. Email: hr@ouyawater.com Website: www.ouyawater.com

An experienced Singaporean woman, a piano teacher, looks to provide lessons at students' homes. Holds a diploma in piano performance and a grade 8 in theory from the ABRSM as well as a bachelor's of architecture. Currently pursuing film composition from Trinity College. Hope to engage people of all ages in music-making. Please email joiesg@yahoo.com.sg or call: 136-9127-8574.

A 41-year-old unemployed man is looking for a job asap. I can drive, speak English and am honest and responsible. Contact me at: 13641299276 or email wanglijiali@126.com.

A private medical clinic in Dongcheng looking for a medical clinic secretary. Requirements: fluent English and Mandarin with superior phone skills. Medical knowledge and terminology desirable. One-year commitment required. Duties: Reception, phone, marketing/advertising, book-keeping, appointment scheduling for doctors. Pay: 4,000 RMB/mo if able to perform all listed duties. Send resume to: confidantmedical@yahoo.com

Help you to change your visa (f, x, z, j) and apply for green card. Tel: 86592919 Email: alen678@163.com Add: Fucheng Road 132, Haidian District

A cultural media company wants to hire a foreigner for international business. Requirements: male, British, long time in Beijing, love Chinese culture, stable, honest. Legal experience an advantage. Contact: sun198052@yahoo.com.cn

An enthusiastic girl, confident in her future, is looking for a job related to English. Good at English listening, speaking, reading and writing. Please contact Miss Xie at: 62373739, 13114513646 Email: Flora2@sina.com

Female, Beijing, 35 years old, B.A. degree, majored in English, looking for part-time job as editor (humanities-related), Mandarin teacher or translator. Tel: 67343067 Email: wlj6166@yahoo.com.cn

A retired president and CEO of two Canadian companies interested in teaching English or French in China. Cell phone: 13520549132 Email: Jeanguyfuoris@aol.com.

(You are welcome to send positions offered and wanted info to: [ayi@ynet.com](mailto:ayi@ynet.com). Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy and authenticity of the information published in this column.)





The Temple Owls are a perennial power in American college football.

Courtesy by John W. Smagula / Joseph V. Labolito / Temple University

## Temple University: We Train Chinese Public Servants

By Zhao Hongyi

Legal issues may be sensitive between the Chinese and US governments, but that has not proven an obstacle to dialog and cooperation. Philadelphia-based Temple University has been part of that dialog, running four rounds of training for Chinese legal professionals in cooperation with Beijing-based Tsinghua University.

Last Sunday, Robert J. Reinstein, vice president of Temple University and dean of its law school, awarded academic certificates to 36 new Chinese graduates at Tsinghua along with his local counterpart, Dean Wang Chenguang.

"We will continue such cooperation and welcome more Chinese students to further their studies on our campus," Reinstein told *Beijing Today* after the graduation ceremony.

Over the past four years, Temple's Beasley School of Law has trained 161 selected judges, prosecutors, lawyers and government officials from China's legal system.

And the university plans to expand its cooperation with Chinese counterparts, Reinstein said in an exclusive interview.

**About Temple/Tsinghua master's of law classes:**

**Is this a government-supported project?**

Yes. We were invited to begin this program by the Chinese government after the approval of the Chinese Ministry of Education. We have also received support from the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procurator, the Ministry of Justice and the State Agency for Foreign Experts Administration.

**Why was Temple University chosen?**

We started a similar program in Japan in 1994 and the Chinese government and law schools became aware of that

program and believed that a similar program in China would be beneficial.

Also, Temple University has a longstanding relationship with China. In 1979, when Deng Xiaoping made his historic visit to the United States to restore diplomatic relations, the only university he accepted an honorary degree from was Temple University.

**What have been the reactions of the 161 Chinese students trained by Temple?**

The reports we have from our graduates have been uniformly positive. They appreciate the education and the opportunities. Many of the government officials have been promoted and given more responsibilities, and many of the private lawyers have gotten very good jobs.

**Will the project continue in years to come?**

Yes, definitely.

**Do you have any other joint programs with Chinese universities?**

Not at present, but we have joint programs and close discussions with the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procurator and the State Agency for Foreign Expert Administration.

**About the Beasley School of Law:**

**Please introduce the history of your school.**

The Beasley School of Law at Temple University was founded in 1895. We now have over 1,000 J.D. students and 250 LL.M. students. The school is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Schools.

**What is the ranking of your school in the US?**

We are generally ranked in the top one-quarter or one-third of all accredited law schools. Our trial advocacy program is usually ranked number one in the nation.



Dr. Robert J. Reinstein

Photo by Ayi

**How does your campus rank?**

Our campus was recently ranked fourth in the country in technology. We have an excellent library, and all three of the law school buildings are completely renovated.

The university campus is very lively and over 7,000 students live in the dormitories on campus.

**What are your school's strongest subjects?**

Our trial advocacy programs, international programs, and intellectual property and transactional representation.

**Aside from government-supported students, are there any self-supported Chinese students studying on your campus?**

Yes, every year we have self-supported Chinese students studying in our LL.M. programs, both in Philadelphia and China.

**What percentage of your student body comes from other countries?**

We generally have about 40 international students for the LL.M. program in Philadelphia.

**Does your school provide loans, scholarships or part-time jobs to law students, particularly international students?**

We provide a limited number of scholarships and part-time jobs.

**What kind of careers do your graduates commonly pursue?**

Our international graduates have been successful in every area of the legal profession. Our graduates have become justices on national supreme courts, high-ranking government officials, successful corporate lawyers and successful lawyers in private international practices.

**About Temple University:**

**Can you give us a brief history of Temple University?**

Temple University was founded in 1884. It has 16 schools and colleges, including undergraduate, graduate and

professional schools.

**What faculties and campuses do you have?**

The main campus is in Philadelphia. We have major international campuses in Rome and Tokyo, as well as programs in such places as Beijing, London, France, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Indonesia and Vietnam.

**How many students are studying on campus? How many are international students and how many are Chinese?**

We have 35,000 students, over 1,000 are international, and about 100 are Chinese.

**What are the specialties of Temple University?**

Liberal arts, science, business, journalism and communications, music, art and education.

**What is the average tuition cost for a master's degree and how many years does one take?**

You can find them on our website at: [http://www.temple.edu/bursar/tuition\\_rates.htm](http://www.temple.edu/bursar/tuition_rates.htm)

Typically, it takes one or two years to get a master's degree, depending on the discipline.

**What is the average cost of living?**

Again, I don't have that figure. It fluctuates greatly, depending on what life style you enjoy. You can have an easy life at a range of \$5,000 to 10,000 per year.

**Please give us an introduction to Philadelphia, where your university is located.**

Philadelphia is the fifth largest city in the United States. It is an historic city, because it is the place where the Declaration and Independence and Constitution were written. Philadelphia is a thriving city, with a world-famous orchestra, opera, theatre and many restaurants.

Temple University is located about two miles north of the center of the city.

## US Gets Top Bill on World University Ranking

By Zhao Hongyi

Taking 20 coveted spots, the United States earned a clear dominance in a listing of the world's top 50 universities released earlier this week by the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, or *THES*.

The greater Boston, Massachusetts can also make a claim to being the intellectual capital of the world, as it is home to top place Harvard University and third-ranked Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The *THES* is prepared and released every year by the UK's *Times* newspaper and is considered a reputable and dependable assessment of academic quality.

Second place went to University of California Berkeley and fourth to California Institute of Technology, giving the US all four top slots and seven of the top 10.

The second-most honored nation was the *Times'* own England. Eight UK universities made the list, the highest ranking of which were fifth-place Oxford University and sixth-place Cambridge University.

Six universities from Australia made the cut, including 16th ranked Australian National University.

The top-placed school in Asia was 12th-place Tokyo University of Japan. The only Chinese university to make it was Beijing University, which won the 17th spot.

The top 50 was rounded out by universities from France, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Singapore, India and Hong Kong.

### World's Top 50 Universities

1. Harvard University (US)
2. University of California, Berkeley (US)
3. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)
4. California Institute of Technology (US)
5. Oxford University (UK)
6. Cambridge University (UK)
7. Stanford University (US)
8. Yale University (US)
9. Princeton University (US)
10. ETH Zurich (Switzerland)
11. London School of Economics (UK)
12. Tokyo University (Japan)
13. University of Chicago (US)
14. Imperial College of London (UK)
15. University of Texas at Austin (US)
16. Australian National University (Australia)
17. Beijing University (China)
18. National University of Singapore (Singapore)
19. Columbia University (US)
20. University of California, San Francisco (US)
21. McGill University (Canada)
22. Melbourne University (Australia)
23. Cornell University (US)
24. University of California, San Diego (US)
25. Johns Hopkins University (US)
26. University of California, Los Angeles (US)
27. Ecole Polytechnique (France)
28. Pennsylvania University (US)
29. Kyoto University (Japan)
30. Ecole Normale Supérieure (France)
31. Michigan University (US)
32. Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)
33. Monash University (Australia)
34. University College London (UK)
35. Illinois University (US)
36. New South Wales University (Australia)
37. Toronto University (Canada)
38. Carnegie Mellon University (US)
39. Hong Kong University (Hong Kong)
40. Sydney University (Australia)
41. India Institute of Technology (India)
42. Hong Kong University of Sci & Tech (Hong Kong)
43. Manchester University (UK)
44. School of Oriental and African Studies (UK)
45. Massachusetts University (US)
46. University of British Columbia (Canada)
47. Heidelberg University (Germany)
48. Edinburgh University (UK)
49. Queensland University (Australia)
50. Nanyang University (Singapore)

### Ask Ayi:

**Q: I am a university student, but was enrolled after taking the self-study examination. Now I am concerned that could prove an obstacle towards my plan to study for a master's degree in the United States.**

— yingying

**A:** In China, each year provincial governments and universities try to open the door to many young people who miss the cut in the national university entrance exams held in July. They provide several exam opportunities a year to students

who persist in their studies on their own after failing the national test.

Though many students who enroll through these self-studying exams can feel less able and do face some discriminatory treatment, such as higher tuition fees, not being given dormitory housing on campus and often being overlooked when applying for jobs, many are outstanding students and all can get their diplomas and degrees once they complete necessary coursework.

All graduate programs in the United States require applicants to have a bachelor's degree. Therefore, the core issue is

whether you hold an academic degree recognized and acceptable by the American university to which you want to apply.

To ensure your degree is acceptable in the US, check on the Ministry of Education's website, or directly ask the university where you want to go.

**Q: I am a university junior studying architecture and plan to get a master's degree abroad after I graduate. What country would be best for architecture education? Plus, can I get a part-time job while I'm at a foreign university?**

— cat\_jiafei

**A:** Canada may be a good option. Some Canadian universities, such as McGill University and University of Alberta, have strong architecture programs.

You'd better start to apply as soon as you finish your third year at university. If you have a TOEFL score above 580, you have a good chance, but you need 600 at least for a top university. Once accepted, you can start applying the visa.

At Canadian universities, students are allowed to work for no more than 20 hours a week on campus. During holidays, there are no time or location restrictions.

(Edited by Zhang Nan / Xie Lixue)



Spring Fling brings music and more to Temple's campus.





## South Korean Cuts

Young people in Beijing cannot get enough of South Korean styles these days. First it was big pants, then it was break-dancing, and now the big thing is getting hair dyed, bobbed or slashed to look like the hottest new South Korean pop stars.

South Korean-style stylists are mushrooming around the city, and not only to keep up with the teens. Compared to Western-style competitors, these salons specialize in feminine, delicate haircuts well suited to Chinese faces and offer fun, comfortable atmospheres with reasonable prices.

For this special issue, four *Beijing Today* writers, all young women, put their locks on the line and got new dos at four different Korean-style salons to get the honest scoop on their ways with scissors.



Photos by Elise Johnson

### Get Your Color On

By Shannon Lee

With the grey of winter setting in, I felt it was time to spice things up with a little color – hair color, that is. This time I decided to check out the handiwork of a new salon located in the new Haidian mega mall, Xin Yansha.

Kang's is one of three new South Korean salons in the Beijing Kang Min Hee Beauty Salon Company group. Upon entering the salon, customers

are greeted by young attendants sporting daring hairstyles and a friendly "Annyong haseyo" (hello in Korean). The salon had a very hip and young vibe and was a very

open and bright space with sleek lines, modern furniture and a flat-screen TV playing music videos. After sipping green tea, I was welcomed by the owner and my stylist for the day, Jiang Jiche. He sat down and talked about my hair type, styling habits and what look I was going for. We perused hair style books, found a cut and discussed highlights. Then my stylist went to work meticulously cutting my hair for about an hour.

Since I am a highlight

virgin, I was a little apprehensive about the outcome of this dye job. To be honest, I was a little worried that I would be walking out with a Pepe Le Pew-like do. But I ended up having no real reason for concern, as Jiang thoroughly went over the hair color palate and consulted with me on which colors best suited my natural hair color and skin tone. My anticipation and anxiety grew with every foil that was neatly folded into my newly cut locks. It took about 30 minutes for the dye to set and just as I was thinking that I could not handle the suspense any longer, my new highlights were revealed. I was impressed, they added

depth and luster to my new do, not to mention they were a far cry from the drastic "streaks" that I had imagined. Instead, I was pleased to see a subtle addition of color throughout my hair.

Now that I have had a few days to get accustomed to my new hair color, I am proud to say that I have no regrets and will definitely highlight again. As for my new cut, overall I am pleased, but have to take

more time than usual to style it. This is the only downfall to my new look. Now while the awesome looks that can be achieved at Kang's will blow your mind, you won't have to blow your savings to get them. Haircuts range from 120 to 200 yuan for both men and women. Pricing for highlights depends on hair length, ranging from 450 yuan to 550 yuan. Kang's does not only specialize in hair, as facial and nail services are also available.

**Tips:** Before any cut or coloring, talk to your stylist about the amount of maintenance required and chose your style accordingly. A new do might look great the day you walk out of the salon, but remember you are responsible for upkeep and styling from then on. While hair color is a bit daunting a first, relax and experiment. Hair color is a great way to liven up any look. Before leaving the salon, talk to the stylist about products to help lock in moisture and new hair color.

**Where:** Third floor, Haidian Qulandian Changyuan Dalu Jinyuan Shidai Shopping Center, Haidian **Open:** 9 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 8887 5460



### Doing More with Less

By Annie Wei

As the seasons change, so should hairstyles. But that is not an easy proposition for some women facing the potentially embarrassing problem of having thin or thinning hair.

Last week, a colleague ruined my lunch when he asked why he could see my scalp. A neighbor tried to sell me Amway products aimed to stem hair loss, and a cute American-French guy once told me the prospect of dating a woman losing her hair was disgusting and he would never do it.

Among some other male friends responding to my survey of "what would you think about dating a woman who was losing her hair?" One third said it would be a definite turn-off, one third said they would not mind, and the rest said it would not be a problem if not really noticeable.

No wonder I get stressed out when I meet hairstylists, though I put myself through the process every season to try to keep up with the latest looks.

Following a friend's recommendation, for this winter's cut, I headed to the **Fadu** salon above the KFC at Dongsì Beidajie last Friday afternoon.

Fadu has a bright, spacious and professional look and even provides each customer a private locker for their things, but all the loud music and late teens in outlandishly bright outfits made me feel a bit old.

Owner Pei Yunlong is a Korean Chinese. I told him I was very sensitive about my hair and did not want a perm or dye job – all I wanted was a cut that would make my hair look better!



Pei suggested cutting the hair on the short side of my part even shorter to relieve any pressure on my hair's roots. He said that while short hair is popular among women in Japan and South Korea, it was not so much so in China, though many women here did not have healthy enough hair to grow long because they did not take sufficient care of it.

At his suggestion, I got some parts of my hair dyed slightly red. "It won't be obvious, but it will add layers to your hair," Pei said. "Layers of hair are just as important as the curves of a woman's body."

Two hours later, my haircut was done. I was very pleased and a friend immediately told me I looked much cuter.

Before I left Fadu, I even got some expert advice on what kind of shampoo to use for my delicate situation – Pei recommended products from Kerastase of France, Jang Jin of Korea and Amway.

Fadu's prices are on the higher end for Korean salons, with straight cuts starting at 80 yuan and dye jobs ranging from 380 to 580 yuan depending on hair length.

**Where:** Dongsì Beidajie, above the KFC near Dongsì, Dongcheng **Open:** 9:30 am - 9:30 pm **Tel:** 6405 8969

Photos by Li Shuzhuan



Photos by Li Shuzhuan

### Body Building

By Chu Meng

A good haircut can change more than just your appearance as I found after experiencing the impressive hair-blowing techniques wielded by Piao Wenyu, one of the top Korean-stylists at the **Yanhan Meichang** Hair Salon.

When I strolled into the salon at 4 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon, I was a bit surprised how busy it was, the air filled with the talk of customers, mostly young women, and the buzz of blowing hairdryers. I was led to a nicely quiet seat by a window, and was soon greeted by Piao.



One of the biggest difference between Chinese and Korean stylists is that the latter always make sure the customers get what they want and don't force their opinions on their subjects. Before Piao snipped one lock, he sat down to talk to me about what I had in mind.

"I've worn my shoulder length straight hair like this forever, I want a change that will look really healthy," I said. "But you don't want a perm, right?" he asked, and I

confirmed his suspicion.

Piao thought for a minute and led me to his work area - then the performance began. To add some body to my hair, he first trimmed to inches from my bangs and cut in some angled layers at the side, starting from below my chin. Then he used a hairdryer to blow up layers of hair along the back of my head. I couldn't believe all the body my hair had after just a couple minutes.

In the last and longest step, he spent half an hour blowing the hair on the sides and back of my head into small and medium-sized curls. "It will look natural and is easy to get ready in the morning," he told me through a Chinese translator.

Piao gave me some good advice I thought I should pass on: "Flipping your hair from one side to the other with your fingers while blow-drying will add fullness. When your hair is nearly dry after you wash it, you can use an oversized round brush and a blow-dryer to direct a few layers towards your face and a few away for a natural look."

Getting a cut at Yanhan Zhidu Hair Salon is not cheap, but certainly competitive for the quality. A standard wash trim and blow fetches 78 yuan, while styled trims range from 350 to 600 yuan and perm treatments for long hair costs around 650 yuan.

**Where:** Third floor, No. 4, Anhuili 2 Qu, Chaoyang **Open:** 10 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 6492 2182

### On the Cutting Edge

By Sabu Zhang

The name may be a bit ridiculous, but the **Hair Rodeo**, or Faxinshe, Salon, cannot be so easily dismissed. It is a top chain of salons run by Korean stylist Yeob Zeong-nan that have been so successful that he now owns five in China, including three in Beijing.

I checked out the two-storey Hair Rodeo flagship in Wudaokou, not from Beijing Language and Culture University. Hair cuts are done on both stories, and on the second there



is a small cafe where you can grab a cup of coffee or surf the Internet before or after being served. Most of the employees, who hail from South Korea or northeast China, can speak both Korean and Mandarin.

When I stepped inside, I was warmly greeted in Korean and led to the waiting area. I got a free cup of coffee and sat next to some Korean customers chatting with the stylists as Chinese customers filed in one after another.

This place has a reputation as a "perm factory" because as many as 100 people get their hair curled or colored on the busiest days, as I saw. Prices are in keeping for the salon's quality: trims cost 50 yuan, while perms or color treatments command 350 to 750 yuan. All products used are top-quality and imported from South Korea.

When it was my turn to go under the scissors, a designer first helped me to pick a style that would best suit what I wanted. Then I picked up a magazine and settled down in comfort while she went to work.

When the steaming stage was over, I got to sit on a sofa, where the stylist continued the



Photos by Sabu Zhang

job, a comfortable and relaxing touch. When my stylist finished the last step, blow-drying, I was completely satisfied. My hair was a veritable work of art, with fine, bouncy curls.

Topping off an excellent cut with a pleasant atmosphere and quality services, I was very impressed by the Hair Rodeo experience.

**Where:** Across from Wudaokou Hotel, Wudaokou, Haidian **Open:** 9 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 8238 7066; 6239 9964



## Personal Classifieds

## Accommodation

Two bedroom, well-decorated apartment for rent in Dongzhimenwai Dajie, near the Australian embassy and Pizza Hut. Home appliances, furnishing and broadband Internet access available. 2,500 yuan per month. Contact: soullivan@sina.com, 1332 1154253 (Mandarin speaking)

A new and very nice apartment near Dongzhimen, close to Russian embassy, is ready for lease. 8,000 yuan per month. 153 square meters, 3 bedrooms, 1 living room, kitchen. The apartment can be used for family living or as a business office. Contact: 13366082266 (Chinese), 13521038347 (English)

Two bedrooms, 1 living room apartment near Dawang Lu, close to Balizhuang subway station, ready for lease. 3,500 yuan per month. 70 square meters. Contact: Mr. Chen, 13601246000

## Language Exchange

A Chinese major who has learned English for two years now wants to find a language partner. The person can be a good tour guide and show you around Beijing. E-mail: cicy1568@yahoo.com.cn

Calm, an employee of a tax agency, wants to find a native English speaker as a language exchange partner. Contact: mwb77@sina.com

Youlanda, a nice Chinese girl, 22, lives and works in Beijing. Well educated, lovely and easy-going, she seeks a native English speaker for language exchange. Contact: icyrose911@163.com

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## Exhibitions

## Movement, Feeling, Environment

About 20 photographic panels on exhibit, along with sketches, films and sculptural works, all categorized as "environmental art." Lectures and a roundtable discussion with Sui Jianguo and Huang Du of the Central Academy of Fine Arts will be held during the exhibition.

**Where:** Beijing Tokyo Art Projects, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** daily 10:30 am - 6 pm till **November 28** **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8457 3246

## Yang Gang Solo Exhibition

Breaking away from traditional Chinese brush stroke painting, Yang has made himself noted for abstract works regarded as a signature and symbol of Chinese contemporary art. The exhibition showcases his latest works of ink and oil paintings created during Yang's exploration of the land and people of Inner Mongolia.

**Where:** Creation Art Gallery, north end of Ritan Lu, Chaoyang **When:** November 13-21, daily 10:30 am - 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570



## Kitchen

Xue Jun has photographed kitchens for the past 20 years since the reform and opening up policy was adopted in China. Her work documents the social changes that have taken place since then.

**Where:** Fa Fa Gallery, 1 Xiangjiang Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** November 11-20, daily 10:30 am - 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8457 3506

## Abstract and Nature

Despite coming from a small country town, Li Qiang's woodcut paintings are vibrant and full of excitement.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, 1-1 E, Huaweili, Enjoy Paradise Chaoyang **When:** November 16-21, daily 9:30 am - 5 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8779 0461

## Performances

## 2004 Advertising Night

The 2004 Advertising Night includes fashion, humor and shocks from the advertising industry of more than 50 countries. For Chinese viewers, it is a window into another world where subtler messages can really pay off.

**Where:** Beijing Workers' Gymnasium **When:** November 17, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-580 yuan **Tel:** 6407 1331

## Lord of the Dance Michael Flatley Top Dance Show

Directed and produced by Michael Flatley, one of the first members of River Dance, "Lord of the Dance" has brought the sounds of Ireland to global audiences with invigorating choreography and eye-catching visual decor.



More than 50 million people worldwide have seen the show since its inception in 1996. The production incorporates many aspects of traditional and contemporary Celtic (Irish) music and dance.

**Where:** Beizhan Theatre, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng **When:** November 17-21, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 180-1,280 yuan **Tel:** 6835 4455

## Jams

## Hed Kandi

Driven by DJ Mark Doyle, Hed Kandi has become recognized for its eclectic compilation albums, offering everything from chill out to deep house, US garage to hip-hop and jazz groove to club classics.

**Where:** Club Tango, 79 Hepingli Xiejie **When:** Saturday, 10 pm **Admission:** 100 yuan **Tel:** 6428 2288



## DJ Basestring

Dutch native, Berry van Zanten (aka DJ Basestring), mixes trance and hardbase tracks to keep you jumping.

**Where:** Vibes Bar, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Dashanzi, Chaoyang **When:** Saturday, 10 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6437 8082



## DJ Sasha Tosic in Beijing

DJ Sasha Tosic is the leading music figure in British Progressive House and Trance. He won first place in the 2000 World DJ Contest. And also he was made top DJ of the whole world by British magazine *Muzik*. Sasha make a Beijing stop on his China tour. Sasha believers can expect to experience an unparalleled electronic music storm.

**Where:** Club Tango, 79 Hepingli Xijie **When:** November 19, 10 pm **Admission:** 480-1,080 yuan **Tel:** 6428 2288

## Club 8

Swedish cult group Clup 8, consisting of Karolina Komstedt and Johan Angergard, plays electronic with touches of pop and jazz. Featuring new music, as well as tunes from their 2002 release *Spring Game*, Rain Fell.

**Where:** New Get Luck bar, in Dongfang Qicai Dashijie, near Nuren Jie, Chaoyang **When:** Saturday, 9 pm **Admission:** 80 yuan (50 yuan in advance) **Tel:** 8448 3335



## UK Performing Arts Festival

The UK Performing Arts Festival is bringing one month of dance and theatre performances running from November 12 to December 5.

## Random Dance

The festival kicks off with Random Dance, renowned for its visionary approach developing exciting dance, performing two modern themes "Ataxia" and "Polar Sequences".

**Where:** Tiaoqiao Theatre, 30 Beiweilu, Xuanwu **When:** tonight and Saturday, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 120-880 yuan **Tel:** 8315 6300

## Drama Throat by F/Z Company

The British Company F/Z's "Throat" is a key program for the UK Performing Arts Festival that fuses dance, theatre, circus, comedy and cabaret. Winner of the 2003 Best Contemporary Circus in the World Fair and the 2002 Total Theatre Award for Innovation and Excellence, the work is themed on the relations between humans and their environments.

**Where:** Bei Theatre, Beibingmasi Hutong, Jiaodaokou Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** November 17-20, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-180 yuan **Tel:** 6406 0175

## Movies

## Nid De Guepes

Directed by Florent Emilio Siri, starring Florent Emilio Siri and Jean-Francois Tarnowski. This film contains action, thrills, drama, gore and violence. Not for the faint-hearted.

**Where:** UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** opens tonight **Tel:** 6261 2851

## Delamu (Documentary)

Filmmaker Tian Zhuangzhuang's first big screen documentary about the life of inhabitants along one segment of Silk Road.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm, tonight and Saturday **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303

## Pachito Rex, It's Not Over Until It's Over

Directed by Fabian Hoffman, starring Jorge Zarate and Ernesto Gomez Cruz. This sprawling drama tells a group of interweaving stories all centered on an assassination attempt. The top candidate in a fictional Latin American country, notorious singer Francisco Ruiz becomes the target of a vicious mercenary. Also thrown into the mix is a police officer who is out to solve the mystery that has plagued this community for years. In Spanish with English subtitles.

**Where:** Mexico Embassy, 5 Sanlitun Dongjie **When:** November 17, 7:30 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2244

## The Best Day of My Life

Directed by Cristina Comencini, starring Luigi Lo Cascio, Virna Lisi, Margherita Buy, Sandra Ceccarelli. This is the story of a group of three brothers and their mother, Irene (Virna Lisi), who is living in an old villa, tied to her memories. The lively goings-on of the family are seen through the eyes of a young girl, Maria Luisa, and the videocamera received as a gift for her first communion. In Italian with English subtitles.

**Where:** Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun **When:** November 18, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187

## 50 First Dates

Directed by Peter Segal, starring Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore and Rob Schneider. Henry Roth is a veterinarian living in Hawaii who enjoys the company of vacationing women. He leaves the playboy life behind after he falls for Lucy, who suffers from short-term memory loss. Since she can never remember meeting him, Henry has to romance Lucy every single day and hope that she falls for him.

**Where:** UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian **When:** opens tonight **Tel:** 6261 2851



## Activities

## Trip to Porcelain City Tangshan

Tangshan is known both for its porcelain and the deadliest earthquake in China in 1976. Take a day trip with the Chinese Culture Club to visit a porcelain kiln to see the process of making porcelain ware and have a piece fired with your own name on it. Then tour the Earthquake Museum and Monument and an earthquake ruin site in the city.

Pick up at 9 am, Sunday at Chinese Culture Club (29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) **Cost:** 200 yuan (members: 170 yuan) **Tel:** 8851 4913

## Music



## Rene Lau (Liu Ruoying) Beijing Concert

In her debut Beijing performance, Taiwanese singer Rene Lau (Liu Ruoying) will give her very patient fans a reason to scream.

**Where:** Beijing Capital Stadium, 5 Baishiqiao Lu, Xizhimen Wai, Haidian **When:** November 19, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 280-1280 yuan **Tel:** 6417 7845

## TV and Radio Highlights

## HBO

## 12 Friday

Maximum Risk	9 pm
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## 13 Saturday

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days	9 pm
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## 14 Sunday

When Harry Met Lloyd	10:55 pm
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## 15 Monday

Half Past Dead	9 pm
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## 16 Tuesday

Flipper	6:40 pm
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## 17 Wednesday

Desperado	9 pm
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## 18 Thursday

The Foreigner	7:25 pm
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## CCTV-9

## Monday - Friday

Around China	6:30 am
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Culture Express	8:30 am
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Nature and Science /	
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Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
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Culture Express	2:30 pm
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Nature and Science /	
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Chinese Civilization	5:30 pm
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Dialogue	7:30 pm
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News Updates /	
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Asia Today	8 pm
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Sports Scene	11:15 pm
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## Saturday

Travelogue	9:30 am
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Center Stage	11:30 am
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## Sunday

Sports Weekend	10 am
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Documentary	10:30 am
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This Week	12:30 am
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## China Radio International 91.5 FM

## Monday - Friday

Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
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Fun in Beijing	5-5:30 pm
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Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
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## Saturday

Music Memories	8:05-11 am
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Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
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Musique Sans Frontières	6:05-8 pm
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Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
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## Sunday

Music Memories	8:05-11 am
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Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
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Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
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By Zhang Jianzhong



'It is a City of Light. When night falls, countless lamps and torches light up all the streets and lanes, and the whole city, viewed from afar, turns into a sea of lights.'

— Jacob d'Ancona



Pagoda at Kaiyuan Temple



Memorial Hall of Master Hongyi



Qingjing Mosque



Laojun Rock on Qingyuan Mountain



Luoyang Bridge



Puppet shows are a famous tourist attraction in Quanzhou.

Photos by Imaginechina

# City of Light

By Peng Juan

In 1270 a scholarly Jewish merchant named Jacob d'Ancona set out on a voyage from Italy. One year later, he arrived in China at the coastal metropolis of Zaitun – the “City of Light,” four years before Marco Polo arrived at Xanadu in 1275.

Nothing was known of this epochal journey until 1990 when a remarkable manuscript of d'Ancona's account of his trip was discovered, giving a first hand account of the merchant's encounter with one of the world's great civilizations in the City of Light, now known as Quanzhou.

## The other Silk Road

Quanzhou, on the south-east coast of Fujian Province, was an important harbor and the starting point of the “Maritime Silk Road.” In ancient times, *citong*, or paulownia trees, were cultivated widely in the region, bearing fiery red flowers every spring, hence its nickname “Citong City”. Visitors from the Middle East mistook this name for “Zaitun,” which sounds like the word for olive tree in Arabic.

During the era of the Maritime Silk Road, the name of Zaitun was known far and wide. At any time, scores of ships could be seen anchored in the bay. Heavily laden boats would shuttle back and forth between the ships and the wharves, which were always piled high with goods. After unloading their cargo of spices, ivory, pearls, hawksbill turtles and rhinoceros horns, the ships would then take on silk, porcelain, tea and Chinese arts and crafts for the journey home.

The earliest records of trading between Quanzhou and foreign countries date back to the 6th century. By the Tang Dynasty (618-907), it had become one of China's four largest ports. Foreign trade peaked in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). The four great travelers of the medieval West, Italians Marco Polo, Giovanni Marinolli and Friar Odoric, and Ibn Battuta of Morocco, all wrote of the openness and prosperity of Quanzhou. Ibn Battuta compared it to the Egyptian port of Alexandria, and Marco Polo described it as “one of the largest ports in the world.”

The best place to trace Quanzhou's ancient maritime prosperity is the Quanzhou Maritime Museum. The museum actually occupies two sites – the original one at Kaiyuan Temple, built in 1959, and the new one at East Lake, which opened in 1991. Cultural relics such as parts of boats, stone, wood and iron anchors, as well as models of boats from the different dynasties vividly recall the rise and fall of fortunes in the ancient port city.

The new museum, in the shape of an ocean-going boat about to set sail, boasts four exhibition halls: the Hall of Quanzhou Port and Ancient Sea Transportation, the Hall of Quanzhou Ancient Boat Models, the Hall of Religious Stone Inscriptions and the Hall of Quanzhou Folk Culture. One of the most important exhibits is a 14th century statue of the Indian god Vishnu, a testimony to Sino-Indian cultural exchange.

The Hall of Quanzhou Ancient Boat Relics in Kaiyuan Temple houses a large V-shaped boat of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), which was unearthed in 1974 from the sands of Houzhu Harbor in Quanzhou Bay. The ship is 24 meters long and 9 meters wide, with 13 cabins. With the bows restored, the magnificent appearance of the Fujian-style ship with its raised prow and stern can once again be seen. The large round keel, the structure of the hull with its multiple planking, the fine rigging and the oval mast step are all visible in this remarkable exhibit.

Other relics and models recall such historic events as the great mariner Zheng He's seven naval missions to Asia and Africa between 1405 and 1433, and Zheng Chenggong's warships reclaiming sovereignty over Taiwan from the Dutch navy in 1662.

## Standing between the Twin Pagodas

The tallest pair of stone pagodas in China, the Twin Pagodas, are the symbol of Quanzhou City, having survived earthquakes, typhoons and the ravages of history for nearly 800 years.

The Twin Pagodas are on the corner of Xi Street in Licheng District in the northwest of Quanzhou. The eastern one, named Zhenguo, is 48 meters high and the western one, named Renshou, is 45 meters high. They were originally built of wood and bricks, but were rebuilt during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279).

The most impressive parts of the east and west pagodas are the bas-relief carvings around the niches of each storey, between eaves and on the base, depicting warriors, guardian deities, arhats and Bodhisattvas, employing a mixture of Chinese and Indian styles. On the fourth storey of the west pagoda, there is a bas-relief of the Monkey King. This has led some people to argue that the legend of Monkey King originated in Fujian, since the novel *Journey to the West* was written in the 16th century, long after the pagoda was built.

The pagodas stand some two hundred meters apart, guarding the main hall of Kaiyuan Temple. Climbing to the top level, one can enjoy a delightful bird's-eye view of the whole city.

## Kaiyuan Temple

Kaiyuan Temple was first built in 686. The main hall is the Mahavira Hall, also known as Purple Cloud Hall. It has three distinguishing features: the 100 heavy stone columns supporting the roof of the hall, five huge Buddha statues, and carvings of flying musicians on some of the pillars.

Inside the hall are 24 flying *apsaras* (female nature spirits) carved between the brackets. Holding musical instruments called *nanyin*, they look like a cross between Oriental girls and Catholic angels, but with wings shaped like those of bats (a homonym for fortune in Chinese) instead of flowing ribbons and floating clouds. The 24 figures, waiting upon the Buddha day and night, support the beams of the hall and symbolize

the 24 solar terms. This architectural masterpiece ingeniously embodies the harmonious unity of mechanics, aesthetics and Buddhism.

Inside the temple are many images of human figures, animals and patterns carved on the stone foundations, all vividly reflecting the harmonious blend of Chinese culture and arts with those of the West.

## Multitude of religions

Quanzhou was a cosmopolitan city, many Persian, Arabian, Indian and Southeast Asian merchants, sailors, emissaries, missionaries and officials settled there. It was also a veritable showcase of religious tolerance: Apart from Buddhism; Hinduism, Islam, Nestorianism, Manichaeism and Taoism all made their mark on the city.

The Qingjing Mosque was built in 1009 on what is now Tumen Street. As the oldest existing mosque in China and well known to the Islamic world, it was designed after the mosque in Damascus of Syria and built with pure granite. Its pointed-arch portal, 20 meters high, has three layers. The outer and middle layers are similar to the caisson ceiling in Chinese ancient architecture, while the vaulted inner layer is of an ancient Arabic style.

The Qingyuan Mountain scenic area, 3 kilometers to the north of Quanzhou, is comprised of Mt. Qingyuan, Mt. Jiuri and Mt. Lingshan. It is distinguished for its 36 exotic rocks and limpid springs. Of the 18 famous scenic spots, the best known are Laojun Rock at the foot of Mt. Qingyuan and the Holy Islamic Tombs at the southern foot of Mt. Lingshan.

The 5-meter-high Laojun Rock is a stone statue of Lao Zi, the founder and Taoism. The sitting statue was carved out of a natural rock during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). His left hand rests on his lap and his right hand on a small table. His ears reach his shoulders, his white beard seems to float in the air and his face beams with happiness and kindness. The figure has become a symbol of health and longevity, and a saying goes in Quanzhou, “Touch the nose of the Stone Old Saint, and you'll live to be 120 years old,” which challenges many tourists to attempt the feat.

The two Islamic tombs are where the third and fourth disciples of the prophet Mohammed, who crossed the ocean to preach in Quanzhou, were buried after death. Their tombs are the oldest and best-preserved Islamic holy resting places in China. In the shape of a crescent, a winding stone corridor signifies the purity and holiness of the disciples.

## Strolling the city of stones

On Chongwu Island, 24 kilometers south-east of Hui'an County, the ancient city of Chongwu is quite literally a world of granite. From any tower on the city walls, one can see the grey town and its stone houses. All the walls, even those encircling the wells, are made of granite. Most of the roofs, though, are covered with red tiles, which give the place a touch of gaiety.

Chongwu is also a world of far-reaching sea vistas, golden sand glittering in the sun and fishermen riding upon the waves. Another attraction is the unusual attire of the local Hui'an women, who still cover their heads with scarves as well as bamboo hats, but leave their navels exposed by wearing short twill tops.

Also called the Wan'an Bridge, Luoyang Bridge was built between 1053 and 1059, across the Luoyang River about 10 kilometers to the northeast of Quanzhou. It is the earliest existing large stone bridge at a Chinese seaport, built to transport goods arriving in Quanzhou via the Maritime Silk Road.

Originally, it was 1,200 meters long and 5 meters wide with 46 piers, 500 balustrade posts, 28 carved lions, 7 stone kiosks, and 5 stone pagodas. On both sides of the bridge there are delicately carved stone lions and warrior guards. This bridge is well known in the history of bridge engineering for its special techniques used to reduce erosion from tidal and river flows and to strengthen the piers.

The seemingly endless Anping Bridge was built between 1138 and 1151. About 2,251 metres in length, it is China's longest stone bridge and one of the marvels of bridge construction in Quanzhou. It stretches across Quanzhou Bay like a long rainbow, linking Anhui in Jinjiang County to Shuitou in Nan'an County.

## Humming an ancient tune

The rising and falling melodies wafting out of the deep lanes and old houses are no less ancient than the time-honored historic sites in Quanzhou. The ancient Nanyin music, Liyuan opera, Gaojia opera and puppet show share a common prosperity here, and attract many tourists to try their hand, or vocal chords.

Nanyin Music, described as a “living fossil of ancient music”, originated in Quanzhou and has a history of more than 1,000 years. It has close ties with ancient imperial music, Buddhist music, poetic rhythm and drama tunes. For hundreds of years it has been handed down orally and has spread from Quanzhou to other parts of Fujian, Taiwan and among overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia and Europe.

There are more than 500 Nanyin music consortiums in Quanzhou, who have republished several Nanyin pieces in numbered musical notation, giving a new lease of life to the old musical form, which has been nominated for listing as a masterpiece of UNESCO's oral and intangible heritage of humanity.

**Tip:** The best local snacks can be found at the famous Food Street on Wenling Road between Jinhui Street and Fengze Street.

**Getting there:** Quanzhou sits between the coastal city of Xiamen and Fuzhou, capital of Fujian. Return airfares from Beijing to Fuzhou range from 1,720 and 3,440 yuan; and from Beijing to Xiamen, 1,560 to 3,120 yuan. From Xiamen and Fujian there are regular buses to Quanzhou.